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MEDICAL EDUCATION

AND

MEDICAL INTERESTS.

BEING THE ESSAY TO WHICH WAS AWARDED
THE CARMICHAEL PRIZE OF £100,
BY THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS,
IRELAND, 1868.

BY

ISAAC ASHE,

A.B.; M.B.; C.M.; TRIN. COLL. DUBLIN.

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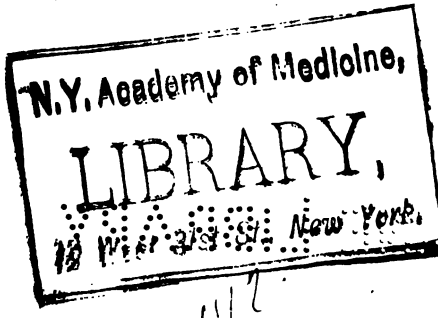
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EXTRACT

FROM

MR. CARMICHAEL'S WILL.

"In my will dated 11th of February, 1849, I bequeathed £3,000 to the College of Surgeons in Ireland, the interest arising from which sum is to be disposed of in the following manner:

"Every fourth year after the investment of this sum in the funds of the College, a premium of £200 to be adjudged by the Council of the College for the best essay, and £100 for the second best essay on the following subjects:

"1st. The state of the Medical Profession in its different departments of Physic, Surgery, and Pharmacy in Great Britain and Ireland, at the time of the writing of these prize essays.

"2nd. The state of the Hospitals and Schools of Medicine, Surgery, and Pharmacy.

"3rd. The state and mode of examination, or of testing the qualifications of candidates of the different Licensing Colleges or Corporations in Medicine, Surgery, and Pharmacy.

"Under these three heads the authors will please to make such suggestions as may occur to them respecting the improvement of the profession, with the view of rendering it more useful to the public, and a more respectable body than it is at present. In these suggestions the authors will please to consider the preliminary and moral education of Medical and Surgical Students, as well as the best mode of conducting their professional studies.

"In considering the 3rd head, or mode of testing the qualifications of candidates by the licensing bodies, the authors will please to consider the most practicable mode of rendering the examinations as demonstrative as possible, *i.e.*, in anatomy, by having the dead subject placed before the candidate. In chemistry,

botany, and pharmacy, specimens of minerals, plants, and pharmaceutical preparations placed before him; and in the practice of physic and surgery, the candidate to be placed before the patients in the wards of an hospital, as the testator is certain that this will afford the most certain and only true mode of ascertaining the qualifications of candidates.

"On handing the sum mentioned of £3,000 to the College, my Trustees will please to have a legal guarantee that the provisions above stated will be carried into effect, as well as the publications of both of the prize essays to the extent each of 700 copies, to be disposed of in the following manner: Copies to be sent free of expense to the Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Councillors, or Governing Members of all the Medical Colleges or Corporations of the United Kingdom. The authors of the successful essays to be entitled to 25 copies each. The remainder to be sold, the produce of which to go to the premium fund. Copies should also be sent to all Cabinet Ministers and Members of the Privy Councils in both countries."

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within our profession, if we propose our path and steer our course by a direct reference to this main principle.

Believing, now, that it is not by the eminence of the few that our profession must and will be judged, but by the general attainments, abilities, and worth of the many; believing that the tone, the status, the welfare, the usefulness of the profession consists in the tone, status, welfare, and usefulness of the individuals composing the bulk of the profession; believing that the health and well-being of the body depends on, and consists in, the health and well-being of each member composing it, we shall therefore address ourselves particularly to the consideration of this question—what process, or series of processes, is best adapted to turning out a thoroughly trained, truly skilful, and eminently useful general body of medical practitioners?

The objects we have thus enumerated refer principally to the public advantage; but we may rest assured that higher public respect, social honour, and pecuniary emolument will be the direct results accruing to the profession in consequence of the attainment of the aforesaid aims. Nor would we be held to imply that the present general body of the profession is not trained, skilful, and useful; for we hold it unquestionable that no other body of equal extent within the kingdom possesses these characteristics in so eminent a degree. Yet we are capable of attaining a higher place, both positive and relative; we may arrive at a still higher average of these qualifications; in an especial manner it lies within our power to exclude from our future professional body many who would otherwise materially drag down the professional average of these qualifications, as being themselves the possessors of them in an inferior degree.

It cannot be doubted that many persons at present find entrance to our ranks who are much below the average; whose union with our body corporate tends, not to raise it, but materially to lower it—to lower it in

education, in status, in professional ability, in public esteem, in usefulness; and, as a necessary consequence, in the tangible returns made by the public as an acknowledgment of the value to them of our professsional services.

To effect the exclusion, therefore, of this class for the future would eminently tend to raise the average estimate and professional worth of the remainder; and the influences and means necessarily to be used in accomplishing such exclusion would be found, like mechanical force, to act in two directions, and to advance the rest of the profession by the very process of removing from it the dead weight of this, its lowest class. Indeed, no other influences or means can properly be used to effect this latter object than those the direct tendency of which is to accomplish the elevation and advance of the rest of the profession.

Our present inquiry, therefore, resolves itself into this—at least in a great measure: What are those influences and means which will tend to enhance the intellectual powers, the cultivation of mind, the tone of principle, the professional skill and ability, the social status, general usefulness, and public esteem of the professional body? What are those tests, and how to be applied, which will insure, in each member of the profession, the nearest possible approach to the general average of those qualifications as a minimum standard; which will secure the result that a large proportion of members admitted shall ever be above that average, and which will hence have a tendency to raise the average itself as high as is consistent with the due supply of professional men for the public necessities, and to maintain it ever rather on the ascending than on the descending scale?

Let us begin at the beginning. The profession is one which will demand for the due discharge of its obligations a whole manhood of the deepest thought, evolved *by the highest* intellectual ability; it is not too much to

ask that a whole boyhood of preparation be devoted to a training for its exigencies: the crop which is to be borne is one of the richest the human mind can grow; it is not too much to ask that the preliminary cultivation of the soil be the highest that human skill can compass, and have the most direct reference possible to the demands that will thereafter be made upon its resources and capabilities. We cannot, therefore, omit a consideration of school education in its relation to the future medical practitioner, and as regards the development and cultivation of those peculiar talents and faculties which will be most needful to himself as a medical man, and most of value to the public in his exercise of his professional duties. First, then, what are these peculiar talents and faculties? We may enumerate the following:

1st. Habits of patient, careful, thorough investigation, and accurate analysis.

2nd. Habits of minute and accurate observation.

3rd. The power of reasoning closely and correctly from effects to causes, as well as from causes to effects.

4th. We might perhaps add a facility in general differential diagnosis, and the development of that peculiar faculty, so valuable to the medical man, though almost unknown, because unnecessary, in other walks of life—that of recognising analogies of relation at a single glance, by an appreciation of peculiar and characteristic, but undefinable, appearances or "facies," traceable by the practised eye throughout allied groups of natural objects or phenomena. This faculty we recognise in our profession under the name of "the medical eye," or "the surgical eye." To the public it might be known under such terms as intuition or medical instinct; but we consider that it is neither intuition nor instinct, but a faculty amenable to training, and capable of high development even in early boyhood, though unquestionably wholly unheard of in the school-training of the present day.

Now, in what does the school education of the present nineteenth century consist; and how far does it propose as an end the development and cultivation of the above-mentioned faculties? We fear the answer must be that such an end is not proposed at all; and that, indeed, some of the faculties we have named are not even known to exist by the learned divines who preside over our schools. No, the end proposed, the object aimed at, by these worthy men is very different. That boys who know hardly anything of their mother tongue, hardly anything of the exact sciences, and nothing whatever of nature, should yet be able to produce an unlimited quantity of Latin and Greek verses is regarded at all our schools as the highest evidence of a cultivated mind and sound education, and as the best preparation for the business of our energetic, earnest, practical, and scientific nineteenth century life. But of this we have no business here to speak. What does fall within the province of this paper to urge is that this is no preparation for the study and practice of the medical profession.

True, at some at least of our universities teaching is afforded and study enjoined of the widest range and the highest utility as a preparation for the medical profession; but only a small proportion, in the sister country an exceedingly small proportion, of those who select this profession are able to afford either the time or the means necessary for the pursuit of a university education; nor could such a course of study be made a general requirement, as a preliminary to professional study, with any regard to the demands and necessities of the public, whose wants we are bound to supply. But school life is a golden opportunity; and the years which must necessarily be spent in some kind of preliminary education, might, if well employed, under the training and direction of one who, being himself a physician, should know what might be necessary for the education of those who *should subsequently* intend to adopt the profession of

medicine, be turned to the highest practical advantage, and made to bear golden fruit throughout a whole life of increased usefulness.

It would, then, we conceive, be a matter of the highest importance, both to the profession and the public, that a high professional school should be established for the preliminary education of lads designed to enter the medical profession ; that the course and method of study pursued therein should be specially adapted to, and framed for the purpose of the cultivation of the faculties above-mentioned ; and that the whole business of the school should be co-ordinated to the one great end of turning out medical men of the highest grade, and of intellectual powers most highly developed for their special pursuit.

Such a school would indicate a direction of study, constitute a standard for emulation, and furnish a rule of comparison for hundreds throughout the realm who might never set foot within its walls.

It is obvious that a just estimate of the different subjects of study, the best mode of pursuing them, the length to which the study of each ought to be carried, and the relative bearing of each on the one great end proposed—namely, the cultivation of the mind to the highest degree for the reception of medical instruction—such an estimate, we say, could not be formed—such an end could not be constantly kept in view by any but a physician ; and to a physician, therefore, of broadly-cultivated mind and wide education, aided by assistants who might be non-professional men, each deeply versed in his own special subject, ought the direction and control of such a school to be given. It would be desirable that the physician who should occupy such a post should be able personally to teach in every, or at least in nearly every subject of study, and that he should in fact do so, and thus accomplish a direct superintendence and co-ordination of the entire business of the school. It would

be desirable further that he should be possessed of high powers of organisation, for on this mainly would the success of such an institution depend.

Let us proceed now to consider the subjects of study and mode of teaching which would be most advisable for the special end in view; and we shall consider them as far as possible in their bearing on the development of the faculties we have mentioned as being of special importance to the practitioner, who, in after life, will have to observe and generalise facts, to detect minutiæ unperceived by ordinary eyes, and to investigate and disentangle the most intricate relations of cause and effect.

We have spoken, in the first instance, of the value of habits of patient and thorough investigation and analysis. For the development of such habits no course of training could, we conceive, be more advisable or efficient than an extensive and wide study of the ancient classic authors; and this over and above their acknowledged value in conferring that literary polish of tone, and style of thought, necessary to the cultivation of a gentleman, and hence, if not professionally necessary, at least socially desirable for the medical man. Let us not be understood, in any former remarks, to have slighted the value of a judicious classical education as a preliminary to medical study; we cannot but regard it as of the highest importance. But it is not verse-tagging, it is not even prose composition, necessary as this is to evolve the classical completeness of the scholar, that will, we think, be found of most value in the training of the future physician; it is the habit of patient investigation and accurate analysis that may be developed by the careful study of passage after passage by the hundred and the thousand in a foreign, and especially in an ancient, language. But if we are to have an extensive scientific course, where shall the time be found for a wide course of study of languages also? We say, of lan-

guages; for we consider that not only the ancient tongues of Greece and Rome are essential, but also that the modern languages, at least of France and Germany, are necessary to the student of a profession which has so large a proportion of its science and literature written in those languages. But we consider that if the time be saved which is usually given in schools to prose and verse composition, and moreover, if we proceed in teaching foreign languages on the system we invariably adopt in teaching a child its own tongue—namely, first, words merely; next, grammatical inflexions; then sentences or modes of using words; and lastly, the study of written authors—we shall find the acquisition of languages so much simplified and accelerated, that there will remain ample time for the further studies so valuable to the medical man.

We believe that valuable training for medical study might also be derived, under skilful handling, from what are commonly known as English branches of education. We believe that the habit of minute and accurate observation, to which we have referred, might be cultivated in an especial manner by careful study of two such subjects in particular; these two are spelling, and geography as studied on maps, not out of books. It cannot be denied that a very considerable proportion of those young gentlemen who now crowd the wards of our hospitals are most seriously deficient in English spelling, and that many would fail to write a simple letter without some egregious blunders. This is not a state of things tending to advance our profession in public estimation; but we regard it in a still more serious light; we conceive that a deficiency in spelling indicates a hopeless absence of the faculty of observation, an utter inability to carry in the mind's eye what has been presented to the view, and a corresponding incapacity for the successful pursuit of medicine. At the age when a young man begins to study medicine, the time for correcting this

deficiency will, we fear, have in most cases passed by. But at the age for commencing school education, we believe that much might be done with this object, especially by taxing and stimulating the powers of observation, and what we may call mental or memorial vision, by requiring the student to write down repeatedly every word in which he shall have failed; and we believe that every step made in this direction will be a step towards more accurate and successful observation in the medical studies of after life.

Again, with regard to map geography, it is obvious that a cultivation of the power of retaining in the mind's eye the relations of countries, rivers, seas, towns, &c., on a map sheet, and the habit of sketching these from memory, will be the best possible preparation for the exercise of the same faculty in the study of the far more intricate relations of muscles, arteries, nerves, &c., in the human body.

Much later in the school course, but introduced with the same object as the above-mentioned studies, would come the subjects of botany and zoology. At present zoology is not required from the student of medicine, and he is permitted to take up botany as a part of his medical curriculum; but it is obvious that much time would be gained for strictly medical studies were botany required for the preliminary examination, as is now the case at the London University, instead of being deferred till the professional examination, as is the case in all other licensing corporations.

It seems strange that zoology should ever have been omitted from the list of subjects required of a candidate for the medical profession. Nor is the nominal insertion of botany any guarantee that this subject shall have been studied in such a manner as might train the faculties of the future practitioner; for, in general, a course of lectures, as specified, and such an amount of cramming as may be necessary in order to pass the examination,

constitutes the sum total of the attention given by the student to this science. Nor can this, indeed, well be otherwise, as must appear when we recollect the mass of purely medical business that has to be gone through by the candidate for a licence. We can hardly wonder that it should so seldom occur to the mind of the student that the only mode of gaining any sound knowledge of botany is by going out into the fields, seeking his own specimens, and patiently dissecting them over and over again by the hundred. Yet perhaps in no other study have we so effective a means of cultivating the habit and faculty of minute and accurate observation as in this of the botanical examination of our native flora.

We have also in this study, and in that of zoology, the most effective means of cultivating two other faculties of the utmost importance to the future practitioner, to which we have above referred, the very existence of which has never even been heard of in the public schools of the present day; the first of these is the power of differential diagnosis: not only do we examine and describe each species in its most minute characters, but when several have thus been examined we collate and compare them, mark their points of agreement and points of difference, consider what characters are peculiar to the group, and what it possesses in common with other groups, estimate the relative importance of these, determine which are essential and which casual or unimportant, and thus arrive at habits of classification by means of differential diagnosis, and, what to us is even more important, cultivate the power of discrimination, and of making out the points of the differential diagnosis itself, and of recognising what may be essential in phenomena presented to view—*e.g.*, in the phenomena of disease—and what may be regarded as of slighter importance. The second faculty which may be especially cultivated by the study of these biological sciences is that which enables us to recognise different groups or

classes by their "facies," or general appearance, as distinguished from a minute examination of individual characters, the faculty of which, as we have said, we sometimes speak in practice as "the medical eye," "the surgical eye," and which is of more importance to the practitioner than any person can estimate who is not himself a member of the profession. Few, either, who have not devoted much practical attention to biological science, can be aware how high a development this faculty may obtain by a careful study and practical examination of botanical and zoological, and, let us add, geological specimens. It is obvious, however, that such studies, to be of any real use in this direction, must be prolonged—prolonged rather than excessive for a short period; and further, that they must be conducted by a practised naturalist, and one who appreciates, and can constantly bear in mind the practical object with which the study is undertaken, and the particular result in mental cultivation aimed at by means of it; and these qualifications are certainly not likely to be possessed by every ordinary teacher of natural science at public schools, even if natural science should ultimately become a subject of study thereat.

A valuable facility in the use of the microscope might be developed in the course of the study of these sciences. The importance of this instrument of research in medical studies is every day becoming greater. But it is unquestionable that the medical student who for the first time in his life looks through a microscope has no less difficulty in discerning and appreciating the characters of what lies before his eyes, than he who for the first time uses a stethoscope has in appreciating sounds which to practised ears are so distinctly audible. But to the majority of students opportunities for microscopical research are by no means so abundant or so readily available as opportunities for auscultation; and hence the importance of having the power of employing the

microscope trained and ready for use before entering on medical studies.

We have now to consider the course of study most efficacious for training and developing the reasoning powers; first, the reasoning powers in general, as necessary for all the higher walks of life; secondly, the power of reasoning from effects to causes in particular, as specially necessary for the pursuit of medicine.

It is an admitted fact that for the purpose of developing the reasoning powers in general no study is equal to that of the mathematical sciences, with their exactitude of reasoning and rigour of demonstration. We cannot but regret the very slight attention at present paid to the mathematical sciences by those who intend to pursue the medical profession. Even in our national schools lads in the upper classes are expected to be familiar with the elements of geometry, and to have studied algebraic processes as far at least as quadratic equations and the Binomial theorem inclusive. It is surely then not too much to say that proficiency in mathematics to this extent ought to be regarded as the minimum in such a school as we propose for the medical profession, and that the stimulus of obtaining places in class according to proficiency ought to be applied as distinctly in the case of mathematical studies as it always is in the case of classical. To the student of medicine the study of pure mathematics is of value quite apart from its effect in strengthening the reasoning faculties; and on this account—the medical man absolutely requires some knowledge of applied mathematics, to the study of which that of pure mathematics is an essential preliminary. Is not the action of every muscle, the structure and shape of every bone, an instance of the application of practical mechanics? Are not the forces which act in producing distortion and displacement in fractures and dislocations forces acting strictly in accordance with mechanical laws, and with the mechanical relations of

the muscles and bones involved? How is a man to understand and disentangle these intricate relations if he has no knowledge of the laws of mechanical forces in general, and of their special applications in the structure and movements of the human body? Is not a knowledge of hydrostatics necessary for the comprehension of the movements of the fluids of the body, and of the action of the organs by which these movements are effected? Is not a knowledge of optics required for the intelligent study of the eye and its various optical arrangements? And for an accurate study of such subjects that of pure mathematics is indispensable. We would not decry popular science—it will do very well for the popular needs; but exactitude and thorough comprehension are what we require for our scientific profession—are, indeed, what every man requires who shall have to earn his bread by his scientific knowledge; and no scientific knowledge has any claim to rise above the designation of "popular" which is not based on mathematics: superficial study, surface knowledge, loose training and habits of thought, are not what is desirable for the boy who is to become a student of medicine. And these remarks are equally true of our next class of subjects—those, namely, intended specially to cultivate the faculty of reasoning from effects to causes, of following the scientific trail, so to speak, of seeing what is the point to be laid hold of, what is the clue to be traced, what is the true direction in which the analysis is to be pursued, and of correctly pursuing it. Beyond all question this is the most important qualification of the scientific physician; "*Rerum cognoscere causas*" is his leading motto; this faculty chiefly it is which constitutes the difference in the skill of different medical men. Given effects, *i. e.* signs and symptoms, the physician has to trace the cause, *i. e.* to diagnose the disease; and the importance of accurate and skilful diagnosis is universally recognised—we all admit that it is at once the most

essential and the most difficult of the functions of the physician; but the value, and at the same time the practicability, of previous training and cultivation of the faculty of diagnosis seems scarcely to have entered the professional mind. That it has never entered into the conception of ordinary school teaching we may safely assert; we much doubt whether the mere classical or mathematical teacher would have any idea how to set about the process. Yet we have a whole list of sciences whose very aim and object it is to study the causes of phenomena, to examine the relations between effects, which are forthcoming for observation, and causes whose agency is to be traced. We speak of the physical sciences of Nature.

First among these we must place astronomy, because that it almost alone permits of the application of mathematics to the investigation of its questions regarding causes; and when to astronomy proper we add astronomical physics, with the beautiful and astonishing revelations which the last six or seven years have given us in that science, and when we consider the intense interest to the youthful mind of what we may call astronomical demonstrations, when judiciously conducted, we may safely say no study can with more advantage be applied to the mental development of the future physician; no study will more effectually cultivate a love of nature, the future field of his labour, and correct habits of reasoning from effect to cause.

Physical geography and meteorology will come next in order, filled as they are with subjects and questions requiring the investigation of causal relations, and, moreover, of permanent value to a medical man for future practice, in consequence of their bearing on climatal conditions and hygienic influences. Next in order from this point of view, though requiring a fair knowledge of zoology and botany for its satisfactory study, we may place the science of geology, second in

the charm of its pursuit to astronomy only, and second also to it only in the accuracy and extent of its analysis of the relations of cause and effect. Specimens would of course form an important feature in any satisfactory teaching of this science.

The study of the imponderables might with advantage be taken next, with their boundless resources for experiment, and their admirable suitability for the study of the physician, increasingly important as a knowledge of their laws and phenomena is becoming in the study of disease. Light, heat, electricity, magnetism, afford a field for study of which our present schools know absolutely nothing, but of which some knowledge is almost essential to the student of medicine before he enters on the investigation of disease.

We have now to consider, apparently perhaps a little out of place, a branch of mental training, the prosecution of which ought to be earnestly entered on at the very commencement of study in a school such as we have proposed above, designed specially for future students of medicine, and which ought to be followed up with unceasing industry and vigour throughout not only the whole period of school life, but unquestionably throughout the whole course of medical study afterwards; we mean the study and practice of English composition and annotation. English composition is very much, and annotation or note-taking wholly, neglected in our modern schools; and young men will find entrance into the medical profession who could not write down an intelligible abstract of any subject matter, whether of their own thoughts and ideas, a conversation at a dinner-table, a sermon, or a hospital or scientific lecture. Yet there is no course of study which more tends to develope the power of clear, concise, accurate, consecutive thinking than the habit of English prose composition, pursued, as it ought to be, during years of training, under every possible stimulus to excellence, and on every conceivable subject.

There is no process which can bear comparison with annotation for giving a clear grasp and comprehensive mastery of any subject, or for arranging, condensing, and, as it were, actually incorporating with the mind any matter of study presented to its comprehension; and this for very obvious reasons; for the mind can no longer be passively recipient, perhaps not recipient at all; it is, and must be, actively engaged; attention must be given to the matter in hand, and one must go through the mental processes of selection, digestion, assimilation, condensation, elaboration, and finally of definite expression of the thoughts thus evolved, and of the form which the ideas presented to the mind assume when they have been subjected to the assimilative processes of its particular organisation. No profession appreciates better than ours the motto "*Doce ut discas;*" annotation is a form of teaching; it is a giving out of acquired knowledge, although not *vivâ voce* to others, but on paper for one's self only; it combines the instruction which has been poured into the mind with the conceptions evolved by the mind itself, it stimulates the evolution of these conceptions, and thus educates in the highest sense of the word; it utilises what has been gained, and thus, in accordance with the great law that utilisation is essential to appropriation, it makes it a perpetual possession. Need we say, then, that abstracts ought to be made by every student of all his books read, and notes taken of all his lectures heard; thus a constant attention would be ensured throughout the year to the subjects of study, and far greater proficiency attained than would be possible by means of any amount of cramming for the half-yearly examinations. Indeed the notes taken by each lad might be made to count largely in the results of such examinations. It is unnecessary to point out how valuable such a habit, we might almost say such a faculty—for the power of taking notes when well developed almost amounts to a special faculty—

how valuable, we say, it would be to the student of medicine in his attendance on medical lectures and in his observation of hospital cases. We believe that were such a school as we suggest handled by a man competent to appreciate the bearing of different subjects of study on the one great end of turning out men highly qualified to study and practise medicine, a man competent to co-ordinate all such different branches of education to that end, one of the principal advantages which a youth who should intend to become a medical man, would derive from the course of training pursued there would be that he would be compelled to take careful notes of every lecture which might be delivered, whether on scientific, classical, historical, or literary subjects; and for the purpose of affording opportunities for this most valuable exercise, we would propose that the professorial system of instruction should be superadded to the tutorial at present commonly in use in public schools, the head-master teaching by lectures in all the various subjects; and this, we believe, a highly trained and educated physician could be found competent to do, while the assistant masters, each in his own subject, should adopt the more personal or individual method of instruction known as the tutorial. We may remark in passing, as a matter of detail, that by a combination of class examination day by day, with such lectures, and by the system of each class being kept at work with its tutors at the same branches and in the same direction as with the head-master in his lectures, this latter could maintain an effectual supervision of every branch of instruction, and of every assistant master's teaching, while the pupil would have the advantage of studying each subject from the different points of view from which it would be presented to them by two different minds.

We have no advantages similar or analogous to those which would be afforded by such a habit of careful note-

taking offered in the schools of the present day to those who shall subsequently be medical students. Neither, indeed, is any such exercise a necessary part of university, or even of strictly medical, training; although, no doubt, the few who know the value of such discipline, and are willing to subject their minds to it, have the opportunity of divers lectures afforded to them for the purpose; but the use of even these opportunities for such a purpose is by no means compulsory.

Let us now endeavour to sketch out an arrangement or schedule of six years school-teaching which should take a boy through the different branches of study enumerated above; recollecting, however, that in all cases the amount of mental training actually accomplished—not to say of knowledge acquired, as if we meant mere cramming—must depend on the intellectual calibre of each individual boy, what we may perhaps call his mental elasticity, or his capacity for the absorption and assimilation of intellectual nutriment, and for consequent intellectual growth. We have shrubs by natural habit as well as forest trees; and although unfavourable circumstances may dwarf and stunt the tree to the size of the shrub, yet even the most careful cultivation and tending can never develope the shrub to the size of the tree.

Let us suggest the following six years course:

First year.—Spelling, Study of English Words, English Composition, Map Geography, History, Latin Words.

Second year.—Latin Authors, Arithmetic, Geometry, Greek Words.

Third year.—Greek Authors, Algebra, Trigonometry.

Fourth year.—Mechanics, Hydrostatics, Optics, Astronomy, French Words and Authors.

Fifth year.—Zoology, Botany, Physical Geography, Meteorology, German Words and Authors, Philology.

Sixth year.—Geology, Chemical Physics, Chemistry.

Viewed thus, the course we suggest does not seem excessive or too laborious.

We consider that there would be a great advantage obtained by including chemistry in the list of preliminary subjects of education; that is to say, theoretical chemistry as taught in the class lecture-room, not the analytical or manipulative chemistry of the laboratory, which we would reserve for the period of strictly professional study, and require every student practically and personally to undertake. By providing a sound and thorough course of theoretical instruction in this subject, with the requisite experimental illustrations, as a part of the student's preliminary education, he would enter upon his studies in materia medica, and in pharmaceutical and analytical chemistry, and also on many clinical investigations, with very material advantages, and would also have more time to give to his anatomical and clinical studies after joining the hospital classes. This observation will apply with even more force to botany, for the early study of which we have, moreover, offered additional arguments above.

It may be said that one year would be a very short time to devote to the study of some of the subjects above enumerated; but we think, although this is not the place to dilate on the matter, that a peculiar school-organisation, somewhat on the pupil-teacher system, would readily be possible, by means of which, while every boy should be required to give one year's study to each of the above subjects, any lad who might evince a special aptitude for any particular subject should receive special instruction and special facilities for progress during a second, or, according to the ability displayed, even during a third year.

Further, it would, we conceive, be highly advisable that a carpenter's workshop, with tools and lathes, &c., should be established, and skilled instruction provided for such of the students as might be led by their own tastes in that direction, encouragements being offered to them for the attainment of excellence; for it is indubi-

table that a facility in the use of the hands would thus be acquired, and in particular a facility in the use of edged tools, and in mechanical construction and adjustment, which would prove most valuable in after life to the practical surgeon. Manual skill is something in itself, quite distinct from mental power, and quite capable of special cultivation, especially during the early years of pliant boyhood. Similar arrangements might also be made as regards instruction in drawing—always a valuable acquirement to the medical man who can master it. These things may seem trifles; but, as a great man once said, "Trifles make perfection, and perfection is not a trifle."

We have been desired to consider moral discipline; it is a difficult subject. At the age when students come up to their hospital and medical school, they are not only almost past the age for discipline, but are apt, in the frowardness of youth, to resent any attempt at control. Even in university colleges, where students can be kept together, and under incessant supervision, the moral discipline reaches externals only, and is nominal and apparent rather than real. Were any hospital or school to attempt to set up artificial restraints, or enact compulsory regulations regarding discipline, the only effect they would have would be to empty its class-rooms at once. Moreover, a parent does not place his son under the moral control of his hospital or school teacher, and thus we lose, in the case of the medical student, the principal fulcrum for even a nominal and external discipline.

Whether anything could be done to facilitate the acquisition of influence over the medical student—influence as distinguished from arbitrary control—we shall consider when we come to speak of that portion of the student's career. At present we desire merely to remark that in such a preliminary school for the profession as we have above proposed much good seed

might be sown, much good discipline enforced, and still more of moral influence gained; nay more, that a basis would be laid for a wider and deeper cultivation of professional good feeling, mutual respect, and courtesy. We do not willingly quarrel in after-life with those who have been our school-companions; and unquestionably a strong bond of good fellowship, a sense of community of interest, a unanimity of feeling, a great deal of *esprit de corps* would be developed by the early bonds of common school-life. Early boyhood is the time for the cultivation of high moral principles; and we believe that by substituting for the time-honoured school birch an appeal to the sense of honour and moral principle, not of the culprit himself, but of his companions collectively, by so devising and allotting punishments as that each should imply and incur, what the birch certainly does not, a certain amount of condemnation from, and disgrace with, his comrades, a tone of moral principle might be developed wholly unattainable under the present system, and such as would bear good fruit during the whole subsequent career, not only of the medical student, but also of the professional man. It was on this principle that the famous Admiral Lord Collingwood conducted the discipline of his ship, abolishing the lash completely, with results which would have been astonishing had they not been in strict conformity with what might have been expected from such a true appreciation of the principles on which human nature must be guided and controlled, if guidance and control are to be made truly effective—principles which are the same at all ages and under all circumstances.

As regards the religious training of such a school, it would be necessary that it should be of the broadest and most unsectarian character, freed completely from the narrowness of view inculcated, as a rule, by the clergy of different denominations, and embracing only those principles of personal religion for the purpose of de-

veloping which we believe a divine revelation to have been given to man, and which are acknowledged by, and applicable to, all the sects of Christendom alike.

Such a school, then, we suggest, as a substitute, for our profession, for the training alike of both the schools and the universities of the present day; of the schools, because the education given in them is to us worse than useless, employing so many valuable years in the acquisition of a power of verse-tagging useless for all practical purposes; of the universities, because the time and means necessary for their course of instruction are, as a rule, more than can be afforded by young men designed for the pursuit of medicine. None can appreciate more highly than we do the advantages of a university education for medical men, or the importance of even the social status which they derive therefrom, and in turn add thereby to the profession at large. Were we proposing to delineate a medical Utopia, one essential feature should undoubtedly be that every medical practitioner should possess a university degree in arts; but we seek what is practicable, not what is visionary. It cannot be doubted, however, that such a school as we suggest would be a university feeder to an extent that we can hardly conceive. When a youth should have acquired habits of study and a thirst for knowledge, such as our verse-tagging and grammar-grinding institutions fail to impart, when he should, moreover, have tried his powers and discovered a strength he was not aware of, and which, indeed, would only have been developed, as it could only be developed, by judicious school-training, then he would seek for higher distinctions in the universities, and then it would appear to his friends, and truly appear, that the time and means would be well spent on such farther education which, previous to his school-training, would have appeared, and truly appeared, to be only so much thrown away.

We would propose that the school course above de-

lineated in outline should be entered on at the age of twelve years, so that the hospital-classes might be joined at eighteen, thus allowing licences to be taken out at the age of twenty-two.

But this seems to us to be only a concession to the necessity so often felt of a young man's beginning to earn his bread as early as possible; and, no doubt, when a man chooses the government services, where promotion goes mainly by seniority, this is a most important matter. But for the student who intends to look for civil practice our judgment would be that eighteen is too young an age to begin such a study as medicine, requiring as it does the highest exercise of mature faculties of observation, judgment, reasoning, and analysis; and we believe that the man who wishes to be something above the ordinary average, the man who seeks for future eminence, would give himself a much better chance of attaining his object by deferring his entrance on the study of medicine till the age of twenty or twenty-two, and this quite irrespective of his mode of spending the intermediate years; and if these were spent in general scientific study, either at a university, or even in the further pursuit of such subjects as we have above mentioned, though not within the walls of a university, his farther cultivation and maturer age and faculties would give him, as we believe, advantages over his fellow-students which, commencing from the day on which he should enter the walls of an hospital, would last and—what some would consider the really important question—would pay, through all the years of subsequent practice. Medicine is not a study in which the dicta of a teacher, however eminent, are to be taken with unwavering faith. The teacher may set forth acquired facts, his own inferences from those facts, and the results of his own experience, or that of others, as to the practical use to be made of such facts and such inferences; but his facts may not be, or rather cannot

be, all that are attainable regarding the matter in hand, and his inferences may even be erroneous, and his treatment capable of improvement. More extended and close observation, wider generalisations, and more profound trains of thought and inference may modify, or even completely change, the views and practice which he has arrived at; and all these processes are open to the student of mature powers to be gone through for his own personal training.

But even setting such a consideration aside, it must be remembered that a student within the walls of an hospital is not, or at least ought not to be, a merely passive recipient of instruction, that his own mind must touch, and his own powers investigate, each individual case; his teacher may show him what he has to do, and how to do it, but he must himself go through the process of doing it; he must observe for himself, must weigh and judge, and when somewhat advanced even criticise for himself, and must endeavour, as far as possible, to throw his own mind into the treatment, as if it were prescribed by himself.

It is unnecessary to insist that the mind of a lad of eighteen, even after the best preliminary training, is far from that mature developement of the powers of reasoning and judgment which would enable him to enter on such processes as these with anything like that breadth of view, depth of thought, and facile, well-balanced, equable adjustment of the mental machinery which is necessary to the advantageous study of such a complex science as that of medicine. Similarly we may by anticipation remark, as regards the age of entering on practice, that twenty-one appears to us too young. A man who selects the church as his profession, with its easy prescribed duties, which may be discharged, if so it please him, almost without intellectual effort, is not allowed to enter his profession till the age of twenty-three, nor is he considered fully qualified for its func-

tions till he is twenty-four. How much less in our profession, where a man has to observe, to judge, to reason, and with his whole energy to think and act, and take upon himself the fearful responsibility of a fellow-creature's health and life, can he be really qualified for these arduous duties at the boyish age of twenty-one.

But we have been led into these remarks somewhat by anticipation, since the question of the age at which the medical course ought to be commenced involves, to a certain extent, a consideration of the age for admission into the profession. On the former question, however, we have to remark that, while the age for entering the profession has at any rate been fixed, however early, that for commencing the study of medicine is still left to the decision of the student himself; and we have often experienced a feeling of profound regret and sorrow, we might almost say of dismay, at seeing boys whose faces and size proclaimed them hardly fifteen, already freed from all control, and entering at the hospitals and schools, exposed to all the fearful dangers of the capital, and the moral infection which cannot but exist where a number of young men are thrown together at random, as in our medical institutions—an infection which cannot but develope itself by mutual fellowship and fostering, as in a hot-bed of fermentation, and to which such lads are peculiarly liable, in consequence of the facile pliability of early years. We would desire, then, for many reasons, to see some definite age fixed as the earliest for passing the preliminary examination and commencing medical studies; and we think that eighteen is the earliest at which it could be fixed with advantage to the pupil, the profession, and the public. For though the seed sown in the hospital and school does not vary with the age of the student, yet the cultivation of the intellectual soil, its receptivity, and capability of bringing the fruit to perfection, vary greatly,

according to the age, and the amount of preliminary cultivation.

This important end would accordingly be gained by the limitation we propose; namely, that whereas at present a parent will say, "My boy can pass at the age of twenty-one; he had better, therefore, commence the study of his profession at fifteen, and thus have six good years at it before he goes in for his licence," he would, in the other case, say, "He cannot pass the preliminary examination till he is eighteen, I must give him a good school education in the meantime." And let us compare the probable results. In the first case, freed from all control at an age when the love of boyish sport is uppermost, when the thirst for knowledge can hardly have been awakened, or a serious view of life, its business, duties, and responsibilities adopted, the boy commences a study the strain and labour of which are too great for his undeveloped mind; his mind accordingly assumes the condition of passive receptivity; he reflects that he has six years before him, in which he will surely learn enough to pass; and to his view it can hardly be otherwise than that "passing" will seem the aim and object of study; he has not yet acquired weight enough to resist the winds of caprice, the blasts of temptation, by which he will surely be assailed; and thus, unable to direct his own course, he is borne helplessly on whithersoever he is driven. Natural tastes, moreover, lead to seeking ease and pleasure; idle and slothful habits are formed; at twenty he knows nothing practical or solid; he has acquired no definite or well-arranged ideas from his careless hospital walking and lolling at lectures; then comes a rush to the "grinders," and nine months' "cramming" results perhaps in scraping through, more probably in a disgraceful "pluck;" in the first case he is wholly unfit for the responsibilities of practice; in the second, he may hang about the hospital for two or three years more under

the title of a chronic student, and in all probability he finally settles down into the anomalous condition of an unqualified assistant, after perhaps attempting the barriers once or twice again.

In the other case the youth will have been retained under control till he shall have taken in a little more ballast, and be better able to hold his own course against the temptations of the capital and the allurements of his fellow-students. He will, moreover, have come to think more seriously of the business of life before him; he will be more likely to have grasped the idea that "Life is real, life is earnest." If the intervening years have been employed as they ought to be, and as it is most probable a parent's anxiety will take care they shall be, he will have acquired habits of order, method, attention and diligence at school, and further have cultivated the mental soil into which the seed is now to be cast. As regards the studies he is commencing, he will have recognised the truth that "Art is long and life is fleeting;" he will feel that every year he loses now is a year lost out of life, and will bend his energies more earnestly to the task before him; nor will this task seem too heavy for his more developed powers, nor the restrictions imposed by his studies on boyish amusements now appear in the same light as at an earlier age; his mind will not be passively receptive, but actively inquisitive and assimilative; a broader foundation having been laid, the structure will now be reared more rapidly and securely. "Passing" will not seem the object of study so much as the after practice of the profession; he will rely more on himself and less on his "grinder." If he applies to this personage at all he will look on him in the light of a private teacher, not of a "crammer," on which subject we shall have something to say hereafter; and in the whole matter the probabilities of the ultimate success of such a student both at his examinations and, what is of more importance, in his pro-

fessional course in after life, will be incalculably greater than in the case of the boy who rushes into deep water before he has learned to swim without cork.

Of course the contrast will be still more marked in the case of the youth who has the judgment and courage to wait till the age of twenty or twenty-two before commencing such an arduous study as medicine; but we suppose that, as circumstances are at present, and with the necessity, too frequent as it is, of early bread-winning, this is a course the advisability of which may be left to the student and his friends, and that, in fixing a compulsory limit, it would be unreasonable to require a delay later than to the age of eighteen. At this age, then, we suggest that the candidate might be admitted to the preliminary examination. The nature and object of this examination we have now to consider.

And first of all we do not mean to suggest that this preliminary examination should be either as extensive or severe as the course of school-training we have proposed above; and for this reason, that the school-course would be optional with the student, but the preliminary examination would, of course, be compulsory. We have proposed the school as a means of affording a valuable aid in the mental training and intellectual developement of those who aim at something more than the average of mediocrity, and as a means of establishing for the remaining number an elevated standard of comparison, and setting forth a course of study which should constitute a high example for emulative copying; but we would propose a different rule for guidance in the case of the preliminary examination. Yet the difference ought to be one of degree merely, not of kind; for as the object in the school would be to *train*, so in the examination the object ought to be to *test* a man's capacity for the pursuit of medicine, his ability to do justice to his patients, to do honour to his profession, and to earn a fair competence for himself.

Now, tried even by the last and lowest of these standards, the preliminary examination as at present constituted does not afford a sufficient test of capacity, it is not of such a character as to be honourable and just even to the student who presents himself for passing, it does not throw out those who shall be unable fairly to earn their bread in the medical profession, and that it should do this even the student himself and his friends have a right to demand; and, annoyed at the time, as he undoubtedly would be, at his own failure, he nevertheless would have far more reason to congratulate himself afterwards on a failure which should have saved him from throwing himself into a wrong path in life.

As matters are at present a young man will pass his preliminary examination, and yet will find, after, it may be, six or seven years of medical study, that he is unable to pass his professional examinations, and that he must either adopt a new career after having spent in vain all those years, and this is not fair to himself, or else that he must settle down into the condition of an unqualified practitioner, and this is not fair either to the profession or to the public. Would it not be much more honourable dealing towards the young man himself, and towards his friends, if the preliminary examination were made of such a character, that, before any more time should have been lost, a man might be told that he ought to seek some other career in life, for that he unquestionably can never succeed in medicine in a manner that will prove satisfactory even to himself; this would no doubt exclude many who now succeed in passing the professional examinations, and in becoming duly qualified practitioners; but let it be remembered that they thereby succeed to a life of disappointment, dissatisfaction, and disgust, even from their own point of view, while to the profession they are an incalculable injury, not only by the low-class competition which

they introduce into its ranks, but also by the depreciation of the public estimate of the science, skill, and character of the professional body involved by their membership thereof and presence therein; yet to the public itself the injury is the greatest of all, in the loss of precious health and valuable life in consequence of the want of capacity and intellectual calibre in those to whose services they have recourse; yet these very men, in some other walk of life, it might be in the army, at sea, in an office, or as farmers, might have served the public faithfully and well, have found satisfaction in their own pursuits, and have been able to earn an ample competence. Obviously, then, if it be only in the interest, and for the sake, of the candidate who shall in consequence be rejected, a great change ought to be made in the character and style of the preliminary examination.

Abler voices than ours have urged the importance of the consideration that every medical man shall possess that first proof that he is a gentleman, that first passport to position and society, a good education. We shall therefore consider the matter chiefly with reference to the establishment herein of a fair test of capacity for future usefulness in the profession; and in this we have to recollect two points; first, that the study of medicine is a very peculiar one, requiring very peculiar and special faculties, as we have above pointed out, and hence that it by no means follows that a man who may have shown even very high talent in some particular line is, therefore, fit for the profession of medicine; a senior wrangler of Cambridge must necessarily be a man of the very highest class of mathematical talent, but yet he has not, by the attainment of his most distinguished honour, given any proof whatever of his fitness for the pursuit of medicine, and therefore the preliminary examination ought to be of such a character and nature as to detect, and cause the rejection of, un-

fitness for this special pursuit even should it exist in the person of a man of such exalted attainments in another line. But, secondly, we must also recollect that the profession of medicine is a very wide one, and that it would be suicidal to reject a man merely because he did not evince the peculiar abilities which would fit him to be a successful *practitioner*; we might thus reject an anatomist of the very highest order, a physiologist whose discoveries might do more to alleviate suffering and prolong life than the labours of a hundred mere practitioners, a chemist who might disclose mysteries of nature hitherto undreamed of, yet capable of the most direct practical application, or a hygienist who might do more for mankind in the direction of the prevention of disease than a whole generation of practitioners could accomplish by its treatment. By hypothesis, however, such men are men of talent; hence a rule of easy application in the conduct of the preliminary examination; namely this, that no man who shows evident and palpable talent in any one direction shall be rejected, provided he comes up only to a very moderate mark in the rest of the examination, his fitness for some branch of the profession being inferred, for the rest, from his selection of it; while, on the other hand, to ensure competence for the satisfactory discharge of humbler ordinary professional duties, a higher general standard might be demanded of those who evince no such special talents or aptitudes. For instance, a man might be required to score 20 per cent. in every individual subject, and 50 per cent. on the whole examination, leaving it to himself to select whatever subject or subjects he might please in which to make up the average of marks required. Again, it might be permitted to a candidate to request a special examination; that is to say, two or three subjects might be named, say, Classics, Mathematical sciences, Physical sciences, and Natural sciences, in any one of which an examination of special severity,

passed with special success, might be considered sufficient to exempt the candidate from the other portions of the ordinary preliminary, provided he exhibited such an acquaintance with English as a gentleman ought to possess. Such a man would be marked as a man of talent by the mere fact of his passing this special examination, and as a man likely to succeed in some department of the profession; but, very possibly, he might also be marked as a man scarcely likely to do well in the ordinary routine of practice.

As regards the subjects of examination it is obvious that they ought to be selected with the view of testing those special qualities and talents necessary for the successful pursuit of medicine, and regarding the mode of training and cultivating which we have enlarged above.

Hence we cannot propose any other list than that which we have suggested as a suitable school curriculum for lads designed for our profession; and while on the one hand we would not ask that every candidate should display as high a cultivation as might undoubtedly be attained to, by means of such a curriculum, by any lad of ability suitable for the profession, yet we would ask that the proof of the possession of such ability in each of the special faculties above enumerated should be clear and distinct; in other words the examination ought to be a test of ability rather than of information, and of the latter chiefly as a means of arriving at a fair estimate of the former. But the proof of ability, of thought-power, and of powers of observation, ought to be ample, even severe, for the strain placed on these powers by the exigencies of practice will be more severe than any test that examination can supply.

Further, the examination ought to be such as to test diligence and application, not during a three months course of cramming and grinding, but during several years of steady work.

It will be asked, How can such a result be arrived at

in a single examination limited to a few hours, for whatever course may be appointed, a teacher can obviously "cram" that particular course? We answer, This is undoubtedly true, and for that very reason no particular course ought to be defined. Such definition of a course appears to us to be one of the worst features of the preliminary examination of the present day. A young man is aware that he will only be examined in, say, twenty pages of Walker's Lucian, a book of Virgil, elementary Arithmetic, and a book of Euclid; accordingly, neglecting everything that can fairly be termed education or mental cultivation, he "crams" these subjects for three months, learns the propositions off by rote, similarly commits translations of the classical course to memory, trusts to chance for the grammar, and to the leniency of the examiner to "fluke" through somehow.

Obviously there is only one way of correcting this, and of substituting education, and years of study and training, for the superficial knowledge and hasty examining at present so much in vogue; and this is to examine, not in any short prescribed course, but in the subjects of study generally; not in a book of Livy, but in Latin; not in one of the gospels, but in Greek; not in the history of Charles XII., but in French. Nor will this be to require the erudition of a scholar, but merely the knowledge of a gentleman and future member of a learned profession, for easy works may be selected; we would not set a young man down to translate the Knights of Aristophanes or a chorus of Sophocles; we would not put Cicero de Oratore or the Satires of Persius into his hands; but we would ask that he should be able to translate with tolerable accuracy, and in writing, so as to give him time to consider the passage, pieces taken at random from Xenophon, Herodotus, Demosthenes, or the easier portions of Plato, &c.; and in Latin from Cæsar, Livy, Cicero's Orations, Virgil or such like; every allowance being made for the fact that, in all pro-

bability he should never have seen the passage before; thus only could a true estimate of his classical knowledge be obtained, and thus only could the system of grinding be done away with, and any extensive or efficient course of classical study be enforced for a single examination. Similarly in the mathematical sciences simple geometrical problems might be proposed for solution, such as a candidate should probably not have seen before, but which should test his powers of analysis, and of applying the principles which he should have gained from a study of the propositions of Euclid. So also in Algebra, powers of reasoning and analysis, powers of grasping and comprehending a case stated, might be tested by questions involving Simple and Quadratic equations; while the physical sciences would present an unbounded range for new questions, to answer which it would be necessary to have studied thoroughly and soundly rather than by the superficial method pursued by the crammer of giving a question and the answer to it.

And be it observed that, as knowledge may be limited without being superficial, so it may be thorough and sound without being necessarily profound. To require a profound knowledge of all the above subjects in a young man who proposes himself as a student of medicine would be absurd; to expect indeed a *profound* knowledge of any subject at the age of eighteen would be to require the strength of the full-grown oak in the sapling; be it ours merely to see that it is an oaken sapling, and then to supply abundant nourishment and suitable care, and the full developement of strength and growth will follow necessarily and in due time. We call that knowledge thorough and sound, however limited, which has been acquired after, and is based upon, a thorough and sound mastery of all that properly precedes it; this of course is necessarily even more limited; but such knowledge is sound structure from foundation

to topstone, and all other is but placing the weight of a column of stone on a foundation of rotten timber.

Will it be said that such a preliminary examination as is above recommended is too extensive and severe for those intended to fill the humbler walks of the profession? We have to reply that there are now no humbler walks in the profession; the time was when some men proposed to themselves the occupation of a pharmaceutical apothecary merely; that time has gone by; every man now goes in for practice; the apothecary equally with the physician presents himself for the army, navy, or Poor-law service, and undertakes to treat anything and everything that comes in his way; hence it has now become necessary that from the candidate for the Hall licence, equally with the candidate for the College of Physicians' licence, should be demanded full proof of a liberal education, and of ability, cultivation, and training sufficient to warrant his undertaking the treatment of disease. To do otherwise is to place a positive premium on an insufficient education, a low professional qualification, and an inferior social status; but we are considering the means of elevating the profession, both within itself and in its relation to the external world.

Moreover, we do not expect young men to present themselves for the study of the most scientific profession in existence fresh from the plough or the workshop, or even from the national school; we cannot but expect that they shall have given all their boyhood's years to sound scientific and classical training before they undertake a path in life to which such training is an essential preliminary.

It is evident that the duty of conducting such an examination as we have above delineated ought not to be left to any chance body. What, for instance, can the College of Preceptors know about the course of training necessary for medical men, or the style of education

essential to the character, the status, and the usefulness of the medical profession.

The Oxford and Cambridge middle class examinations, the entrance examination of the University of Dublin, are, no doubt, examinations admirably calculated to serve the ends for which they are designed; but these ends are not the ascertaining the fitness of the persons examined for the profession of medicine.

As we have before remarked, even a degree in arts is not, to our mind, a sufficient guarantee either to the public, the profession, or even to the individual possessing it, that he shall be able to discharge the duties of the medical profession with advantage to others or with satisfaction to himself. For, on the one hand, a very high degree may be obtained in mathematics alone by a man incapable of any other pursuit; or in classics alone by a man who could not connect two scientific ideas together; we speak not of metaphysics, a science which leads many of its votaries to ignore the very existence of Nature, the subject of the medical man's studies. And on the other hand it cannot be denied that a great many young men obtain degrees in arts without having gained any such amount of knowledge, or given any such proof of education or cultivation of mind, as should imply the possession of even very humble abilities, abilities which would fall far short of the standard requisite for the due discharge of the duties of our profession.

It cannot be denied that by many the university course and career are regarded rather as a means of acquiring a certain social and literary polish than as a means of training and developing any special faculties for particular pursuits in after life. And such a social and literary polish is, no doubt, of high value to the medical man, but undoubtedly will not replace, or be a substitute for, the far more important qualities of intellectual calibre and cultivation. Hence we would urge that no other examination, or series of examinations whatsoever, should

be accepted as exempting from the preliminary examination for medical studies as sketched out above. No doubt many of our licensing corporations would require for their special licences or degrees that examinations still more extended and severe should be passed; the University of London, for instance, would undoubtedly do so; and this would add a special value to the degrees or licenses of such bodies, but ought not, we think, to be held as exempting from the general preliminary examination; First, because it would be impossible to guarantee that such examination, however high in character, would always be directed specially to the testing of fitness for the medical profession in particular; and secondly, because, if any one such examination be held to exempt a candidate from the general examination, where shall we stop? If the Preliminary Scientific Examination of London University be admitted as exempting shall the A.B. degree of Cambridge, Oxford, or Dublin be refused? or shall these be admitted and those of other universities deemed insufficient? What particular body shall we insult by stopping its candidates when we have allowed others to pass unquestioned?

Again, it cannot be denied that a considerable amount of uniformity in the style, character and requirements of this examination would be highly desirable; we would not go so far as to suggest that it should be passed by all candidates before the same examining board; but it does seem to us that a special board appointed by and responsible to, the General Medical Council, presided over by a member of that Council, holding its examinations, say, quarterly, in the capitals of each of the three kingdoms, one board being appointed for each kingdom, and the members thereof being paid fixed salaries irrespective of the number of candidates examined by them, such an arrangement, we say, would form an effective means of conducting the preliminary

examination to be passed by every man previous to his admission to the student ranks of the profession.

It would then be still open to every licensing body which might wish that a high educational value, as distinct from a professional value, should attach to its licence, to institute a special examination for candidates for its licence, in case it should not consider the students' preliminary a sufficient guarantee of attainments, which is the method adopted by the University of London, or to enjoin such other course of training as might to it seem advisable, as is done by the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and Dublin. And to this special examination or course of training, the requirement need not be attached that it should take place previous to the commencement of medical study, but the period for it might be arranged as should seem best to the particular licensing body, the general examination of the General Council being the guarantee of fitness for admission to the student ranks only, unless any licensing body should be satisfied to regard it as a guarantee of fitness for its licence also. We need scarcely remark that the preliminary examination ought to be conducted both orally and by means of papers, inasmuch as it is now an almost universally recognised maxim that any examination test, to be effectual, must embrace both methods.

As regards the constitution of the examining board, we have already said that it would be desirable that it should be presided over by a member of the General Medical Council; we should think it advisable that the examiners should be members of the medical profession, of eminence each in the subject in which he should examine; and we should think it desirable that some gentlemen engaged in high general education without reference to any special pursuit, such as fellows of university colleges, should also be amongst the examiners.

The fee for this examination might be a small one, payable, of course, direct to the General Medical Council,

and it ought to be paid for the examination, not in consideration of the certificate of having passed, and hence ought not only to be unreturnable, but ought to be paid over again at each fresh trial by a rejected candidate; and such fresh trial ought not, we think, to be permitted sooner than six months after a rejection.

We shall now suppose that the candidate has passed his preliminary examination, and given such proof of his powers of investigation, observation, memory and reasoning, as shall put it beyond question not only that the years to be spent in studying his profession shall not be wasted as regards his own prospects and business in life, and that he shall unquestionably be able to enter his profession, but also that, having entered it, he shall be competent to discharge its duties with advantage to the public, and corresponding satisfaction and reward to himself; and we shall accordingly now proceed to consider how his professional studies may best be conducted so as to qualify him for the arduous task of life before him.

And first of all we cannot but notice the extraordinary discrepancy of the requirements of different licensing bodies as regards the studies required of the student, a discrepancy perhaps most marked in the studies universally admitted to be the most practical and the most important, namely, Practical Anatomy and Hospital Attendance. Thus, according to the regulations published in the "Medical Directory" and the educational numbers of the different Journals, we find that in Practical Anatomy no definite course of dissection is specified by the University of Oxford, or by the Royal College of Physicians of England for its membership; from this as the minimum we pass to six months, or one session, specified by Cambridge and the four Scotch universities, and also by the Dublin and Edinburgh Colleges of Physicians, and by the University of Dublin for its medical qualifications. Next come, with the requirement of twelve months, or

two sessions, dissections, the London, Durham, and Queen's Universities, the English College of Physicians for its Licence, the English College of Surgeons, the Glasgow Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, and the English and Irish Apothecaries' Halls. Finally we find the maximum of three sessions, or eighteen months, dissections required only by the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, and by the University of Dublin for its surgical qualifications. Yet we think few will be found to assert that the student of ordinary ability will be found able to master his anatomy as he ought to do in the course of two sessions dissections. We do not speak of exceptional cases, since it is for students of ordinary talents and application that rules have to be made; nor can we reasonably object to allowing the student of extraordinary powers to relieve himself of the incubus of his anatomical studies at the end of his second session; but should a student fail to pass his anatomical examination then, we cannot but think that he ought to be required to spend a third complete session at anatomy. This would place a very distinct premium on talent and application, and would serve as a valuable stimulus, and from this point of view might perhaps be preferable to a universal three sessions requirement; but the examination ought undoubtedly to be such as would ensure that the student for whom three years dissections would be the normal requirement should be compelled to pass three years thereat.

Again, let us consider the variety of requirements as regards hospital study.

The University of Oxford, and that of Durham for its medical qualifications, specify no definite period of hospital study. The College of Physicians of England requires but one year's attendance on surgical wards, as the College of Surgeons requires but one year's attendance on medical wards. Then we have two sessions, or eighteen months, required by the University of Dub-

lin for its medical qualifications, by the four Scotch universities and the London University, the latter, however, and Edinburgh, requiring six months practice in addition. The English College of Physicians for its Licence, and the Irish Apothecaries' Hall, also require only eighteen months hospital attendance, while the English Apothecaries' Hall specifies medical hospital practice only, for a similar term. The term of three sessions, varying from twenty-four to twenty-seven months, is required by Dublin and Durham Universities for their surgical qualifications, by Cambridge and by Queen's, the Irish and Scotch Royal Colleges, and by the English Royal Colleges in their own departments respectively, the R.C.S. Eng. and R.C.S. Edin. requiring six months practice in addition.

Similarly in Midwifery, the London University, the English College of Physicians for its licence, and the English Apothecaries' Hall, alone require a certificate of attendance on twenty cases; of the remaining bodies about one-half require a certificate of attendance on six cases only, and the other half do not specify any number; yet we doubt whether it might not be found that many men have attended six cases who have never yet been successful in recognising the *os uteri* by the sense of touch, not to speak of more delicate discriminations, in which training and practice are required as much as in the use of the stethoscope. We are aware, of course, that certain corporations grant a special licence in midwifery, on a much more satisfactory course of study; but it is optional with every man to take such licence or not, and the requirements necessary for it are regarded as extra to those of the ordinary licence of the corporation, and not as included in it; yet many men will no doubt practise midwifery on their own ordinary licence without any further acquirements or knowledge of the subject than those which may be specified for such licence.

We cannot but think that the extraordinary dis-

crepancy in the amount of practical study required by these different licensing bodies, as shown above, points out strongly the need of an authoritative declaration from the General Medical Council regarding the amount of practical study which should be enforced by all the licensing bodies. Thus only can uniformity of study be obtained; and that such uniformity is highly desirable is evident from the fact that there is a decided set of the current of students from those bodies whose requirements are highest towards those which are satisfied with less, to the injury of the former, and not only so, but to the injury of the profession also, which fails to arrive at the high educational standard intended by those bodies which demand the higher requirements. It is not, perhaps, necessary to point out the direction in which this current sets; it is indeed only too well known; and it is equally well known that there is no return current, showing conclusively that, whether designedly or not, the low requirements act as a decided premium on a minimum of work, and that it is emphatically the interest of those bodies which endeavour to maintain a high standard of education to insist on a uniform course of study being authoritatively enforced. There is no such hardship in this now as there might have been ten or a dozen years ago; then it might not have been reasonable to ask that the man who intended to practise as a mere apothecary or compounder of drugs should go through a course of study as extensive or prolonged as the man who desired to practise as a physician or a surgeon. In these days all aim at practice, all qualifications are accepted by the Army, Navy, and Poor Law Boards, and those licensing bodies which have always conferred a practising diploma, and one accepted at these boards, owe it not only to themselves, but also to the profession and the public, to see that they are not underbid by corporations which may claim to be allowed time in the race on account of their humbler rank, like yachts of smaller

tonnage, but which nevertheless know full well that, the examination goal once passed, a full equality of rights to practise will be claimed by those who have thus got through on easier terms; it need not be pointed out that this is an injury to those who have devoted a longer time and more work to their preparation for their professsion, as well as to those corporations which have required this of them for the sake of obtaining a more honourable qualification.

We are well aware that, since the recommendation of the General Medical Council to that effect, a nominal uniformity obtains with all licensing bodies to the effect that the student must have been engaged for four years in the study of his profession; but that this uniformity is only nominal we have clearly shown above. So far, indeed, has even this recommendation of the Council been set at nought that in one remarkable instance the period of four years is allowed to count from the date at which a lad commences pupilage with a surgeon holding an English dispensary appointment, where his duties will chiefly consist in dividing pills, and filling bottles with *mistura cathartica* at the direction of his master, a worse school than which for observation, investigation, accuracy or scientific instruction could hardly be devised.

But even setting such an instance as this aside, we cannot but feel that the whole idea is in error in accordance with which the term of four years is held to consist of four years attendance on lectures, and which permits any given year to be counted as one passed in professional study if two or more courses of lectures are kept in it; *how* they are kept, at what proportion of lectures out of the whole number in the course the student may be present; what amount of attention he pays to the lecturer; whether he takes notes of the subject; whether he proves by an examination, or a series of examinations, that he has gained any acquaintance with the business treated of—these are questions on which the regulation

does not touch; yet they are questions of very great importance; at present, however, we can only hint at them, and must decline to enter upon them; because what we wish to insist on is that the idea put forth by the licensing bodies of keeping an *Annum Medicum* by lectures is radically wrong: we say it with all respect; we put forward our opinion with all deference; but we believe that the object with which the present competition has been appointed is the eliciting of opinion, with arguments for the same.

We ask therefore, will four years lectures make a surgeon or a physician? Certainly not; nor forty years; not with any amount of brains and diligence to work on. What then will do so, those qualities being premised? To what instrumentality must we have recourse if men fairly entitled to be called physicians or surgeons are to be turned out? Undoubtedly to hospital attendance; and that, conducted on such a system as shall make mere hospital-walking useless as a qualification for a diploma, and shall require from the student hard earnest hospital work.

We suggest then, and desire earnestly to urge the point, that the first requirement in a uniform scheme of medical education, a requirement which we should desire to see rigorously enforced by the Medical Council, shall be that four sessions, of nine months each, shall be devoted to hospital attendance, both the medical and surgical wards receiving due attention in each session. For if two sessions of hospital attendance and lectures are not sufficient to qualify a man properly, as is admitted, certainly two more sessions of lectures only, without further hospital attendance, will add but little to his practical knowledge and medical skill.

We pass on now to remark that we have always observed a marked difference in the attendance on the medical wards of a hospital as compared with the surgical wards.

Does not this, we ask, indicate something wrong as regards the amount of knowledge required of a young man for a licence to practise medicine as compared with that required of him for a surgical licence? Is it the case then that less attention, or a knowledge less extensive, less profound, or less practical is required for medicine than for surgery? Are experience and skill in the use of the stethoscope, the laryngoscope, the thermometer, or chemical tests, more easy of acquirement than the art of bandaging, the use of the bistoury, the mode of applying splints or of dressing wounds? Is the diagnosis of medical diseases more easy than that of surgical diseases, or their treatment more simple? And is it not further the case that, in civil practice at least, a man's medical skill is far more frequently called on than his surgical skill? We fear that the true answer to the question is this; that, although no such allegations can be made, yet the student in general ignores all such considerations; selects as the body from which he will seek his medical licence that one which will let him through easiest, both as regards hospital attendance and knowledge at examination, and never thinks of going a step beyond its requirements; and we fear that it is at present the case that medical licences, as good in the light of qualifications for practice as the very highest, can be obtained at certain boards on terms which are both far too low positively, and which also act relatively as a direct under-bidding in the market of higher qualifications, and thereby as a great detriment to the entire profession. In vain will one licensing body endeavour to keep up the standard of its educational requirements, if another, which equally affords a qualification to practise, is allowed to grant that qualification on lower terms. If one corporation finds it necessary, in order to keep up a demand for its licences, to underbid its fellows in the diploma market, let it do so in the matter of fees, a private affair between

itself and its licensees, but let it not be allowed to do so in the matter of professional study and knowledge, which must necessarily drag in the interests both of the profession at large and the public, and that to the serious injury of both.

We proceed now to farther considerations regarding hospital study. It has been attempted at various institutions to enforce regularity of attendance by a roll-call; we much doubt the attainment of any great benefit from this regulation; it is of course good as far as it goes; it will enforce habits of system and regularity; but it is not sufficient, for the reason embodied in the sage reflection that to bring a horse to the water by no means involves a participation by the animal of the benefit of its streams; other students, again, may drink indeed, but, owing to a defect in their organisation analogous to that recorded in the case of the celebrated Baron Munchausen's steed, they derive no more benefit from the process than that animal is said to have done.

In plain terms hospital walking is not hospital work, and it is the latter which is needed to turn out physicians and surgeons worthy of the name. Now it is an unquestioned fact that the minute observation of cases of disease is the first requisite in hospital work; and it is equally well known that habitual, careful, copious note-taking, or case-taking, is the only means whereby such minute observation can be attained, or the history, symptoms, treatment, progress and result of cases infixed and imprinted on the mind. By no other means can a systematic arrangement be given to a student's ideas regarding a case, or the habit be acquired of forming such a systematic arrangement in the mind. By no other means can precision be acquired, or a just estimate obtained of the relative importance of different symptoms; by no other means can the effect of treatment be registered, or a correspondence noted between

the symptoms and signs during life and the morbid appearances after death. And, again, the value to the practitioner, when fairly started on his own account, of a well-arranged and copious volume of cases observed in hospital, and tabulated for future reference, and comparison with future cases, can hardly be over-estimated.

Yet we find such an important aid to hospital study not officially recognised, but left altogether to the option of the student, who is far from being aware of the value and importance of this method of treating his hospital studies, and far from alive to the loss he will experience in after practice if he neglect his hospital opportunities, which he can hardly hope subsequently to replace. As soon would we leave to a student's own choice the question of his practical dissection as that of his hospital case-taking; as soon would we permit an anatomical prize to be his sole incentive to anatomical study as we should allow the chance stimulus of hospital clinical prizes to take the place of uniform, systematic, and enforced case-taking. As regards the mode of effecting this object we do not see that there can be any difficulty. Let it be required of every student, in each of his hospital years, that he submit in writing to the hospital staff, say, twenty-four surgical and twenty-four medical cases fully taken, with his own remarks on diagnosis, treatment, and the views taken by works of reference on the class of cases to which each example may belong; let him also be considered liable, and be subjected, to a verbal examination regarding the cases he may present; and under no circumstances let a student be considered as having put in his hospital year unless he shall have submitted the requisite number of cases, and satisfactorily passed the examination thereon.

It will be said that one student would copy cases from another; we think that the liability to examination on the case, rather, be it observed, than on his own report

of the case, would go far to prevent this; and the rule that, in any detected instance of copying, both the parties in fault should lose credit for the case would effectually prevent either an attempt on the one side, or permission for it on the other.

In the third and fourth years we should regard it as highly advisable to require in addition a report of twenty-four post mortem examinations, say twelve medical and twelve surgical cases. We cannot but regret the deficient attention paid by most of our hospital students to the subject of morbid anatomy and post mortem observation and record. It is a matter left altogether to the student's own option whether he shall study the subject or no, although on the one hand the profession fully recognises the importance of it, and on the other hand it is well known that not one student out of ten does so. When we propose, then, to enforce this branch of study we do not merely mean that attendance in the dead-house ought to be required, but that each student in turn should be called on to perform the sectionem cadaveris, and, of course under suitable direction, to examine the various organs, and to make himself familiar with the healthy and the morbid appearances presented by each, whether to the naked eye, under the microscope, or as produced by chemical re-agents.

We pass by as an insignificant consideration the probability that in future practice a man will frequently be called upon to perform post mortem examinations, and to estimate morbid appearances, and may find himself considerably at fault if he has not had previous practice and experience in this special subject; this undoubtedly is a minor argument in favour of our proposition; but the important argument is that only by such study of morbid anatomy can a man arrive at the power and faculty of forming in his mind a correct idea of morbid processes and organic change in his living patient, as a counterpart to the signs and symptoms presented for observation

while as yet they may be made available as indications for treatment in the case of the individual who may be the subject of them. Those, moreover, who know by experience with what extreme difficulty post mortem examinations can be obtained in after practice, or how often cases will occur in which the practitioner would be willing to forego his fee for the sake of obtaining one, will not think any amount of attention to this subject too great to be enforced while as yet the opportunities presented by hospital practice are forthcoming.

We pass now to the consideration of another branch of practical hospital work; viz., surgical dresserships and medical clinical-clerkships. It is evident that to teach medicine and surgery theoretically, however soundly, is not the principal work of a hospital; these subjects must be taught practically also; meaning thereby, not that teaching students to know is not practical, but that they must be taught to do as well as to know; and this cannot be taught by lectures, by looking on, or by note-taking, necessary as these undoubtedly are as preparations for the exercise of knowledge. Further, knowledge is appropriated only by use; till one has employed his knowledge it can hardly be said to be his own; and especially is this true of medical studies, essentially practical as all medical science must be. We repeat, therefore, that hospitals have to teach, not only the science of medicine, but, as far as may be done within so short a space of time, the art of medicine also. Hence we regard it as essential to their full discharge of duty towards the pupil, the profession, and the public, that all hospital students should be required, after having attained a certain definite position in theoretical knowledge and medical science, to convert their science into art by practice under the eye of experienced teachers; and this we conceive can only be done by requiring that each in turn discharge, say for the period of six months, the duties of

Dresser for the surgical wards of a hospital, and those of Clinical Clerk for the medical wards for a similar length of time. We are aware that a requirement somewhat to this effect is made by a small proportion of the licensing corporations; but, as seems to us, the whole value of the regulation is destroyed by the wideness of the sphere in which the student is allowed to exercise his practice; for we find that not only attendance on any dispensary, but even on the practice of any qualified practitioner, will be held as an equivalent to dressership in a hospital. We cannot regard these as suitable fields for such practice at this stage of the student's career; when he shall have become qualified as a practitioner, and be able himself to undertake the responsibility of cases, no better field could be found as an introduction to practice than that of qualified assistant to some older practitioner; but while still a student we conceive that he requires instruction, combined with his practice, of a higher kind than practitioners, not being hospital practitioners, are, as a rule, qualified to give, superintendence more systematic than can be given outside the walls of a hospital, a range of cases such as can scarcely be found elsewhere, and a concentration of mind and attention upon individual examples which is not possible in dispensary practice, and we fear would not be tolerated among private patients from a youth still unqualified. We cannot suppose that a student's theoretic knowledge of his profession can be so perfect at the end of his second year, or even of his third year, as to allow of his dispensing with that accurate, close, systematic instruction on individual cases which ought undoubtedly to go hand in hand with his first attempts at practice, but which certainly can only be obtained within the walls of a hospital.

We would not, however, limit his choice of a hospital for this purpose to those connected with a school of medicine, or to the ordinary clinical hospitals; there

can be no reason why our County Infirmaries should not all be utilised for this purpose; they are repertories of medical and surgical cases of the greatest value, and they are presided over by men whose skill and experience fully entitles them to undertake the practical instruction of students.

We do not know that we can speak so favourably of the Union Infirmaries, at least of this country. They are rather to be regarded as infirmaries for such of the workhouse paupers as may happen to be on the sick list, than as hospitals to which severe cases of illness or accident naturally resort from a given district. The medical officers no doubt are frequently men of talent and experience; and it cannot be doubted that workhouse infirmaries are the best field for the study of chronic disease. We should be inclined on the whole to utilise them for the purpose under consideration; but we should take care, both in Union and County Infirmaries, to enforce two regulations in order to secure a sufficient amount of, and attention to, clinical work on the part of the student; first, that he should actually reside within the walls of the hospital; secondly, that a fixed proportion should be observed between the number of beds actually occupied, on the average, by hospital cases, and the number of students allowed to take out their clinical practice in the infirmary. And further, since we cannot but consider that a hospital where regular clinical instruction is given, and regular post mortem observation is conducted, must be of a far higher value to the student than one where such is not the case, we would throw the balance rather in favour of the former, or at least ensure that residence in the latter should not involve loss to the student in other important respects, by requiring six months yearly attendance at the former from all students who should take out their clinical practice in a hospital not specially devoted to clinical instruction; this would make thirty months at a clinical

hospital, viz. nine months in first and second years, and six months in third and fourth; the six months of session work still to be made up, according to the thirty-six months scheme we proposed above, might be considered to be compensated by the twelve months of clinical practice in a country hospital; but we should require the production, year by year, of the specified number of cases observed, and post mortems recorded, be the hospital chosen for dressership and clinical clerkship what and where it might.

Ought we to require intern residence, and a fixed proportion of beds to the number of dressers and clerks, in regular clinical hospitals? We think that the answer to both questions ought, practically at least, to be in the affirmative; but with two modifications on the absolute interpretation of this answer; namely, first, that the responsible dresser, being rather a resident pupil in charge than a dresser in the present sense of the term, might be assisted in his work by externs not thus limited in number, while the proportionate number of beds to each resident might be much smaller than in a country hospital; secondly, that adjacent residence should be considered equivalent to intern residence. No doubt intern residence in the strict sense of the term would be highly valuable, but it would be quite impracticable from simple want of accommodation; it might therefore be made a prize to be competed for, as is at present done in some of the hospitals of the city of Dublin; and it might be worth the consideration of the various boards of hospital government whether a small but regular income could not even be obtained for the hospital by renting, or building, houses adjacent thereto, and fitting them for the special accommodation of the other dressers and clerks. The advantage to the students of having lodgings, specially designed and adapted for them, in close proximity to their hospital and school, where they could

be instantly summoned for any extraordinary case, and where they could have the benefit of mutual association and good fellowship, and be secure from the various inconveniences to which young men in lodgings cannot but be exposed, and where, moreover, a certain definite influence for steadiness, diligence, and gentlemanly conduct, could be brought to bear on them by the resident medical officer of the hospital, all these advantages, we say, would be so great that we have no doubt such residences would be well filled, both by the choice of the students themselves, and also by the wishes of their parents and guardians, and that on terms which, we have no doubt, would be found so remunerative to the hospital as speedily to ensure the providing of the same advantages for the whole hospital class, the benefits of which, to the junior students especially, could not be over-estimated.

We have one more remark to make regarding these dresserships and clerkships. The sick inmates of a hospital are not cases merely; they are patients; suffering fellow-creatures, afflicted brothers and sisters of our common humanity; and the hospital in receiving them undertakes thereby a due care for their welfare and personal interests. Two considerations present themselves on this view of the subject before us; first, that care ought to be taken by the hospital staff that a proper amount of theoretical knowledge has been acquired by the student before he is entrusted with a post so responsible as the personal care of these patients. The style of his case-reports, and the results of a special examination to be held by the hospital staff at the end of his second year, might be made to afford a sufficient guarantee in this respect, and this would moreover constitute a great incentive to diligence and application. A certificate of having passed the examination ought to be granted, and no residence in hospital, infirmary, or workhouse, ought to be allowed to count

in fulfilment of the prescribed requirement unless it should be subsequent to the date of this certificate. Nor ought a student to be regarded as having entered his third hospital year until this certificate should have been obtained; the idle, the ignorant, and the intellectually deficient would thus be stopped at this point, to the great benefit of the profession and the public. Secondly, it is equally obvious that the habitually intoxicated, habitually debauched, or innately cruel student is not fit to be entrusted with the lives, the honour, the ministering to the sufferings of, the patients in a hospital, of every age, of both sexes, and under every conceivable circumstance requiring steadiness, forbearance, delicacy and discretion. Such a student ought therefore to find his career also stopped at this point, by the requirement of a certificate of moral conduct. Such a certificate is required by many licensing bodies, but it is well known to be a mere farce; no amount of immorality prevents its being obtained from some person or other, if the applicant has only managed to keep clear of public notoriety in a court of law. But it is obvious that, under the system we suggest, of hospital accommodation or lodgings for the student, under the supervision of the resident medical officer of the hospital, such a certificate, signed by this officer, would be no farce, but that by means of its requirement, as a necessary preliminary to an office the tenure of which should be considered essential to a future licence, the strongest moral influence could be brought to bear on the hospital student, particularly in his earlier years, when such influence is most needed, and a certain amount of restraint and supervision is most beneficial. Influence, however, it must be, not constraint; medical students are not, or at least ought not to be, mere schoolboys, and the sense of newly acquired freedom will not bear newly imposed constraint; moreover, moral developement requires freedom; where there is no

freedom there is no responsibility, no voluntary grappling with, and victory over, temptation, no possibility of the acquirement of that "virtue" which is, as our earliest ethical writer truly defined it, ἕξις τοῦ δέοντος, the *habit* of acting rightly. The battle with the world of temptation must needs be fought; let it be begun with the aid of influence as strong as can be brought to bear, but without such hampering restriction and constraint as is sure on the one hand to result in reaction when it is removed, as it ultimately must be, and, on the other hand, to check, from want of exercise, the developement of that power which might have been trained, by means of early practice, to constant victory;

"Simul ac duraverit ætas
"Membra animumque tuum nabis sine cortice."

We have more than once above made mention of the Resident Medical Officer of a hospital. Such an office always exists in the English hospitals, but its tenure is temporary, and its occupants are supposed to be principally, if not altogether, engaged in taking charge of the patients. In the Irish hospitals the office can hardly be said, as a rule, to exist. What we propose is therefore something new; namely, that the office should be instituted, with permanent tenure, in every hospital which undertakes clinical teaching; and this, not with a view to the charge of the patients, but specially with the object of the higher developement of the hospital as an educational institution.

We shall endeavour to enlarge on this idea, remarking, however, that much of its importance, as seems to us, will only become apparent when we enter on the consideration of some further branches of our subject.

Viewed as an adjunct to the teaching power of the hospital the resident medical officer would occupy a position which might perhaps be designated as "tutorial" in contradistinction to the more "professorial" position of the visiting surgeons and physicians.

The value of a tutorial staff in addition to the professorial is recognised at most of our universities; and it is admitted that adequate instruction requires the employment of both modes of teaching. The professorial system supplies mental pabulum of a high order; the tutorial secures the rumination and due digestion of it afterwards. The professor addresses his class; the tutor addresses the several individuals composing it, each in succession. The professor chiefly regards the subject of instruction; the tutor chiefly considers the recipients of the instruction. The professor seldom, normally never, questions his class; with the tutor this is the normal mode of procedure. The absence of provision for the tutorial requirements of the students of medicine has powerfully aided to call into existence a class of teachers, known as private teachers, unconnected with the hospitals, and even, in their tutorial capacity, unconnected with the respective schools of medicine. That they are, as a general rule, engaged as authorised teachers in the schools is an independent consideration; the two functions are in themselves wholly unconnected. But though in general engaged in the schools, they are, as a rule, not engaged in the hospitals, nor in practice. Hence there is an essential defect in their qualifications as regards the teaching of medicine and surgery; for instruction in these subjects, to be of any value, must be practical. Any tutor can question his class out of a book, and see that they understand and are masters of it, but to understand and master works on medicine and surgery does not, and cannot, make a man a physician or a surgeon; nothing but constant observation of, and reference to, the clinical cases presented in hospital practice can ever accomplish these ends. Here, then, would be the great advantage of having tutorial instruction in medicine and surgery conducted by the resident medical officer of a hospital. In official charge of the cases within its walls, in-

timately acquainted with each of them, carefully observing them from day to day, and recording the details of at least the more important of them in the hospital case-book, this officer, in the capacity of hospital tutor, would have a field and scope for practical instruction wholly unrivalled. As superintendent of the hospital dead-house, and curator of the hospital museum, his facilities for instruction in the much-neglected departments of Pathology and Morbid Anatomy would equal those presented by his clinical cases for medicine and surgery; and, if a competent man, the whole teaching of the hospital would in his hands assume a different aspect.

He would superintend the student's early attempts at dressing and case-taking; he could devote a larger amount of time to each individual student than the visiting clinical professor amid the claims of a busy practice could possibly afford; he would, by individual questioning in class on the hospital cases, not only elicit the amount of the student's knowledge, correct him where wrong, establish him where right, impress his failures, infix his gains, but even the knowledge on the student's part that this process was to be gone through would secure from him an amount of attention, close observation, earnestness and diligence in his hospital rounds with the professors that nothing else could accomplish. We propose then that the resident medical officer should consider his primary duties to be those of a hospital tutor; that he should therefore be appointed by the hospital staff, not by the Board of Governors, and that he should of course be responsible to the former alone. It is not the business of this paper to consider in an especial way the interests of hospital patients, but the care of them would naturally and necessarily fall on the resident medical officer as superintendent of the dressers and clinical clerks; such care would, moreover, be their due, in return for the facilities for instruction obtained by the hospital tutor from their cases. We

conceive, therefore, that it is not students newly passed who should be appointed to offices of such responsibility as regards the care of the sick, but men who, by at least two or three years of active practice, should have learnt what it is to bear personal responsibility for their patients, and should have gained that experience, habitual practical tact, and knowledge of the art of medicine, as distinguished from the science, which nothing but actual practice, and the pressure of personal responsibility, can bestow. From the constant superintendence and care of such men we believe that the patients will derive a benefit which will more than compensate them for any further presence of students, or reference to their cases, which may occasionally become necessary under these circumstances; if the resident surgeon has anything to do on their behalf they can hardly with reason object to his pupils accompanying him to the bedside and deriving such instruction on the case as the opportunity affords. Nor could the Board of Governors, as we conceive, object to giving their sanction to a scheme which would at once be of advantage to their patients, and unquestionably raise the character and reputation of their institution as a clinical school. But it would of course be necessary formally to obtain their sanction to the proposal.

Ways and means, or financial considerations, must necessarily form part of the practical suggestion of every practical proposal. We have therefore to consider what ought to be the mode of remuneration of these officers; for it is obvious, first, that their services as a portion of the educational staff of the hospital cannot be had for nothing; secondly, that their remuneration cannot be placed as a charge on the hospital funds; nor, thirdly, on the fees of the visiting staff; and, lastly, that the earning of his bread by his labours is at once the guarantee required of, and given by, every man for earnestness in, and devotion to, his work, and is also the due reward to him for such earnestness and devotion.

But we observe that since students at present pay large sums to private teachers for tutorial instruction in medicine and surgery which must necessarily be unpractical, we conceive that they would willingly pay adequate fees for such tutorial instruction as should be essentially practical in the same subjects. And indeed in Ireland hospital fees are small, very small as compared with those in England, and we do not conceive that any student could reasonably object to the payment of such fees for this practical tuition as should make such an appointment of value sufficient for a man of mature years and experience to take and to keep it; for years would be necessary to give him some moral influence over the students; we think he ought hardly to be less than thirty years of age; and his office ought certainly to be a permanent one, that is until his own choice should induce him to leave it for a practice such as his hospital experience would entitle him to. Nor would this be the smallest benefit the public would derive from the institution of these offices, passing by the more practical training of the students at large, namely, the constant turning out into the field of practice of men with such knowledge, judgment and experience as several years of clinical and pathological observation in the post of resident medical officer within the walls of a hospital would bestow, impressed, arranged, condensed, subjected to processes of comparison and analysis, and finally built up into one compact structure as their knowledge and experience would be, both by long meditation thereon, and more particularly by years of practical teaching of the same, for in medicine especially is the maxim true "Doce ut discas."

A student at the hospital would be under the resident officer's instruction for four years, and would receive this instruction, on behalf of the hospital, in case-taking, for at least his two junior years, in dressing, in the post-mortem room, and at the bedside as occasion might

offer; we think that a hospital fee of £5 might fairly be charged for these advantages; we should expect the student to pay £5 more, voluntarily, for the private class-teaching in medicine and surgery which we have spoken of above as being at present undertaken by gentlemen not holding hospital appointments, and which we consider would necessarily be discharged in a more practical style by the resident officer we propose. These fees would enable a man, presumably a family man, to live; and undoubtedly every encouragement ought to be given to the resident officer to undertake the private preparation of students for the preliminary examination, recollecting that his doing so would be a kind of class-collecting for the hospital; for lads who should have taken out their preliminary preparation with the resident officer of a given hospital would undoubtedly attach themselves to that hospital for their student course, at least if their teacher should have exhibited fair ability, of which students can judge just as well as their seniors, in the different branches required for the preliminary examination; from this point of view, indeed, it is evident that the question whether he could discharge this function well would be a consideration far from unimportant in the selection of a gentleman to fill this post of resident medical officer of a hospital. We think it can hardly be a matter of doubt that the hospital which shall first adopt the proposal above suggested will find that students will evince their appreciation of its advantages by an unprecedented enlistment on its roll, notwithstanding the additional fee.

This is perhaps the best place to speak of the practical study of Pharmacy. To the physician or surgeon an acquaintance with pharmacy, both in its scientific basis, and in its practical details, both in its laboratory processes for the preparation of medicines, and in the humbler duties of the mere compounding of those medicines, is obviously necessary for the adequate discharge

of the important duty of prescribing; we speak not of the apothecary, whose especial business, as such, is pharmacy as distinct from medicine. But yet we question whether even by the future apothecary, now that his claim to practise medicine has been recognised, too much time may not be spent upon the humble study of mere compounding. We conceive that it is essential to the position, both social and professional, of the man who is to practise medicine, that his mind be highly trained in general science, and in the whole breadth of his profession; and we feel that if five years, or even three, be spent in apprenticeship and the mere compounding of medicines, either the young man's general or his professional education must suffer in consequence. When a young man is articled to a general practitioner, or undertakes an engagement with him, he passes into the condition of an assistant in the shop, and it is but natural that as much service as possible shall be exacted from him in that capacity. Time to attend such lectures as may be necessary to keep his year is indeed a usual stipulation if the metropolis be the locality of apprenticeship or service, which however is the case in but a small proportion of the whole number. But to study medicine as it ought to be studied during the short four years allotted for that purpose, that is to say in hospital, dead-house, anatomical theatre, and chemical laboratory, as well as in class lectures, will require every moment of a young man's time, and a larger number of hours daily devoted to hard earnest work and study than most young men are willing to bestow; where then shall the time be found for standing behind a shop-counter to compound prescriptions? Or if this apprenticeship or service be taken before hospital study begins, then is it not at the cost of the loss of an education in general science which, as a foundation for the special superstructure of medicine, is vastly more important than the mere manipulation of drugs, prolonged

through so long a space of time out of the short term of life? It will be said that the general practitioner's pupil sees practice also; in the metropolis, or indeed even in other large towns, we doubt it; for it is more important to the master to keep him employed as the shop-assistant; in the country villages it is probable that he does see some practice; but we doubt if it is of bonâ fide value to him; for he has not yet acquired that theoretical knowledge of medicine without which practice must be an unintelligible enigma; he knows nothing of anatomy, physiology, chemistry; he has not observed hospital cases, nor learned in the principles of medicine any basis for the practice of it. Nor is it usual to find among country general practitioners any man whose knowledge is at once so wide and so deep that his instructions to his pupil, supposing him to devote a long time daily to this duty, can compensate for the loss of systematic hospital and school teaching conducted by a staff of first-class men, each specially devoted to his own subject. But yet pharmacy must be studied, and studied thoroughly; and the mode by which many hospital students elect to study it is unquestionably the best, and one offering, as we conceive, especially if supplemented by a course of Laboratory Analysis and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, far higher advantages than that of apprenticeship; this is by taking out a course of six months practice with the hospital apothecary in compounding the hospital prescriptions. This mode of studying pharmacy we should wish to see enforced, and that at an early period of the student's career. The name of a drug or preparation known by name only carries with it a very different idea in a student's mind from that conveyed by the same name when he has seen, smelt, handled and compounded it.

> "Segnius irritant animos demissa per aurem
> Quam quæ sunt oculis subjecta fidelibus."

The physical properties of a drug at least, and,

if he be an earnest student, a considerable knowledge also of its chemical properties and therapeutic effects, will be arrived at by him through conversation and inquiry during the process of compounding a prescription containing it; when he hears it mentioned again it will be an old acquaintance which he will recognise with pleasure; he will watch whether its effects correspond with what he has been told of them; and the whole idea conveyed to his mind regarding it when he meets its name in future will be as much superior to that which he would otherwise have had, as is the idea conveyed by the name of a man whom we have seen, and with whom we have conversed, to that which we receive on the mention of the name of an utter stranger. We would not allow a student to be considered as having completed either his first or second year without having been engaged during three months in each in the practice of pharmacy with the apothecary of his hospital. This arrangement would, we think, be better than six months in the first year, for we should never think of allowing the whole time to be deferred till the second year, but the presence, assistance and conversation of the second year's students, with their three months of previous practice, and their subsequent hospital acquaintance with drugs, and, we should hope, with the knowledge to be gained in a laboratory course of Pharmaceutical Chemistry in addition, would prove most advantageous to the young beginner; and we can scarcely doubt that, in accordance with the maxim "Doce ut discas" quoted above, their endeavours to benefit their junior companions would be nearly equally advantageous to themselves.

We have spoken just above of a Laboratory course of Chemistry, and we cannot but regard such a course as of the utmost importance to the medical student, though it is so little thought of at present. We have strongly urged that chemistry should be made a subject of pre-

liminary education and examination; but we spoke then of chemistry in the lecture room, not in the Laboratory; it would obviously be impossible to expect instruction in chemical tests and processes, or practical analysis, or the preparation of pharmaceutical products in a school or general college of even the highest scientific claims. Yet chemical analysis is a branch of study with the rudiments of which it is almost essential that the well-educated medical practitioner should be acquainted; and Pharmaceutical Chemistry has received so great a developement, pari passu with General Chemistry, that special instruction in it has become necessary. Moreover what we may more strictly term Medical Chemistry, the appreciation, by means of chemical tests and re-agents, of the products of normal or morbid processes within the human body, and the science of the relation of these products to disease, has within these last few years made such vast strides that no practitioner can be considered as properly qualified who is not familiar with the actual manipulations required in this branch of medical study, or who has not, by means of such actual manipulation, familiarised himself alike with the products to be submitted to examination, the re-agents by means of which that examination is to be conducted, the chemical composition and properties of both, and the reactions to be observed consequent on their mutual influence. We would therefore propose two courses, of three months each, of Laboratory instruction and Analysis; one course to be devoted to Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical processes, and the other to general Chemical Analysis and Medical Chemistry. We say two courses of three months each, because we think it highly necessary, first, that the laboratory instruction should be completed during the two junior years, and secondly, that it should nevertheless be so arranged as not to interfere with the study of Practical Anatomy, and hence ought to be taken out during the summer session.

The school, extra-clinical, or theoretical subjects would thus be got over during these two years, and this would leave the student free for strictly practical or hospital studies during the last two years of his course. This would only be carrying out more perfectly the division which has already been made in the student's business with such decided advantage.

We regret that a course of Operative Surgery is not made compulsory, if not by special enactment at least by the knowledge on the part of the student that he will be subjected to such an examination in it, by being required to perform two or three operations on the dead subject in the presence of the examiners, as shall absolutely require previous practice on his part. This course might with much advantage be taken out during the summer session of the third year; summer being preferable to winter on account of the subjects not being so much in demand then for anatomical study. As a matter of practical detail we may say that we can see no reason why the country should not be laid under contribution by the Anatomical Committee, as well as the town, should any necessity arise owing to the pressure of an operative examination.

Practical Midwifery might perhaps be best studied in the summer sessions and in vacations. Certainly we should consider it essential that no student should be allowed to enter on a course of practical midwifery without giving an engagement that during such course he would not undertake either anatomical study or post mortem observation. The array of facts going prove that puerperal fever, that terrible scourge of our maternity hospitals, may be communicated to a patient by her medical attendant, in consequence of his having been recently engaged in, or even only present at, a post mortem examination is now so great that a due regard for the safety of the poor women who seek assistance in their hour of trial absolutely demands this precaution.

We have often been shocked by the neglect evinced by students, fresh from the anatomical theatre or dead-house, of the simple precaution of washing their hands in the disinfecting solution provided in the maternity wards; and we have little doubt that the invasions of puerperal fever which so shock us from time to time have, as a rule, their origin in the careless and culpable negligence of some one or other of the students of the hospital.

We have now to approach a portion of our subject at once difficult and delicate; viz. what may be called Systematic Instruction, as distinguished from Practical Instruction; the instruction, necessarily theoretical, given in the school lecture-room, as distinguished from that given in the hospital, or in the anatomical dissecting room and the chemical laboratory. With this subject a further discussion of Private Tuition is inextricably mixed up, so that we find it necessary to consider both together. We cannot but feel here that we are treading on delicate ground; ground on which it will be impossible to avoid coming into collision with vested personal interests in one direction or the other, possibly in both. Should we therefore find ourselves led, by the considerations which may present themselves to us, to enunciate views apparently antagonistic to one or both of these interests, we beg earnestly to plead in excuse, First, that we have been invited to bring forward the considerations which seem to us to have weight, and to express the views to which they may seem to lead us. Secondly, that truth can best be elicited, and the right course of action best be ascertained, by having arguments from all sides and points of view brought to bear on the question. Thirdly, that it has been prescribed to us that we are to treat our subject with reference to the benefit of the profession and not of private interests. Fourthly, that, after all, it may be found, on wider, broader and deeper consideration of the questions involved, that not

only is there no antagonism between these two, but even that these private interests may best be benefited by appearing for the time to overlook them altogether; and thus that, should any of our views seem to bear hardly on such interests, it may be found that the antagonism is only apparent, and that the modifications we may find ourselves led to suggest may be the very best thing for these private interests themselves also.

Some time ago one of the leading professors of the Dublin School of Medicine, on a public and very special occasion, expressed his regret that private teaching had almost taken the place of every other form of medical instruction. This sentiment we fully share, if by private teaching, or, as it is commonly called, "grinding," is meant the cramming in of question and answer by a mere strain upon the student's memory; but it does not follow that this is necessarily the case; for "grinding," in Anatomy at least, may assume the form of questioning the pupil upon what he has observed. We have before said that in Surgery and Medicine the questioning, and the sifting and arranging of the student's knowledge at "the grind" is necessarily rather on what he has read in books than on what he has observed at the bedside; and we have expressed our view that this is open to amendment. But it must be observed that private tuition is a matter which cannot be interfered with authoritatively; and hence we consider that, in itself, it does not fall within the scope of this essay; we can discuss it only in its relations to, and for the sake of the light it throws upon, matters which fall more properly within our province on this occasion. We think it will be advisable to attempt to analyse the somewhat remarkable fact adverted to by the eminent professor to whom allusion has been made, and to seek out the causes of, and, if possible the remedies for, this singular state of things. The question is this —; Why do we find that the student, having by compulsion paid

for the benefits to be derived from attending the lectures of men of the highest reputation each in his special branch, men daily engaged in the practice of the subject they treat, and hence qualified in the highest degree to treat of it well and practically, why, we ask, does the student nevertheless turn his back on the instructions of these men, satisfied if he merely receives the parchment necessary for his admission to examination, and yet, voluntarily, and without any compulsion, pay a much larger fee for the privilege of attending the private instructions of gentlemen engaged, as a rule, principally in anatomical teaching merely, seldom to any great extent in practice, and hence certainly so much the less competent (from lack of opportunity, far be it from us to say from lack of ability) to give instruction in practical business, or to sift or analyse, correct or arrange, a student's knowledge of practical work, or his observations or reflections thereupon?

First, perhaps we must reply, a convenience of hour has something to say to it; the student instinctively feels the high importance of his anatomical work; and being busily engaged, it may be at a valuable demonstration, it may be at his own dissection, perhaps with a companion whose aid thereat is of value to him, he has little relish for breaking off his work during daylight to attend one lecture after another; but private instruction usually takes place in the evening after the hours for practical work are over.

Secondly; the professor does not, as a rule, question his class, and the student feels instinctively the value of this mode of instruction, especially in those cases, which sometimes occur, where examiners are apt to lean more on their own peculiar views, and expect the candidate to evince special acquaintance with them. These reasons have undoubtedly some weight with the student; but we think we have not yet quite hit the mark, or arrived at the true reason.

Thirdly, then, the private teacher takes especial care to suit his instructions to what may be called the market demand on the part of the student; and this for the very good reason that his class would desert him, and hence his emoluments would fail, if he did not do so. The authorised school-teacher pays no attention to this market-demand of the student, not being under the influence of the same motive for so doing. For the authorised school-teacher is practically the holder of a monopoly; circumstances not connected with him or his instructions lead a student to select the school in which he teaches; such circumstances may be the reputation of the hospital connected with, or adjacent to, the school; the reputation of other lecturers in the same school; the reputation even of the private teacher connected with the school, who are to a certain extent his rivals; or, it may be, even mere convenience of locality; but having once selected a particular school, it becomes almost impossible for him, on account of mere inconvenience if for no other reason, to take out his courses of lectures at any other school. It may be the case that the particular lecturer by whom we are illustrating our argument is a man of the highest ability and distinction, and thoroughly acquainted with his subject, but that he has no faculty of communicating his knowledge to others; we have known such cases; it may be that he has both the knowledge and the faculty of communicating it, but that he prefers to handle his subject in a manner and style, it may be with a depth and research, which would make his lecture of the highest value to practitioners, were they only there to hear it, but make it wholly useless to the student, who, presumably now for the first time, enters on a consideration of the subject; such cases also we have known; it may be that the lecturer is a man of altogether inferior abilities, a mere compiler without good practical knowledge of his subject, who by some means or other, a

matter scarcely falling within our subject to inquire into, has managed to secure for himself a post for which he is not fitted; nevertheless the fees must be paid, and an occasional attendance is put in to save appearances, lest the lecturer, when he is asked to sign the certificate of attendance, should fail to recognise the personal identity of the claimant. Thus the incompetent lecturer disregards the palpable evidence of his incompetency afforded by the empty benches before him; and the man of talent and ability overlooks the fact that his very able lectures are not suited to the requirements of the students, the mortification which every man must feel at seeing his class-room deserted being easily pocketed when the fees for attendance are pocketed at the same time nevertheless. What, then, is the obvious remedy for this state of things? Some would say, Call a class-roll and enforce attendance; but we would say, It is bad enough if the student is compelled to pay for what is of no use to him, which undoubtedly is sometimes the case, and hence may be supposed to be the case under consideration at present, but to require him to sit the lecture out, and give up to it time which he would probably be employing much better in his dissecting room, would only be an additional infliction, and perhaps a more intolerable one. We think the consideration cannot be too earnestly pressed that every man may be influenced by means of suitable motives, but that compulsion generally loses on the one hand more than it gains on the other, and hence is the worst of all modes of obtaining a given result; attendance may be compelled, but not attention. One licensing corporation in Ireland, and one of high reputation, adopts a different, but certainly for the most part a successful mode of obtaining an earnest attention in the class-rooms of its professors; namely by making these very professors the examiners for its licences, so that the man who shall have attended their lectures

carefully will know almost to a nicety what questions he will be asked at the examination; but it may be questioned whether as much is not lost in the breadth of a test conducted on this system as is gained by the more earnest attention of the students; and further, although the professors of this school are men of the highest reputation, this system certainly affords no guarantee that this shall always be the case, as we think a more perfect system might do, neither indeed has it invariably been the case even in the school alluded to.

A third mode of obtaining full class-rooms presents itself for consideration, and one which, apparent objections notwithstanding, we fearlessly assert to be the true one; viz. to subject the lecturers to those conditions of competition and rivalry which, and which alone, are proved by theory, and shown by experience, to be capable of stimulating and guiding exertion, and ensuring excellence, in all other walks of life; and this can only be done by making attendance on the class, payment of the fee, and production of the certificate optional on the part of the student. We expect to hear an outcry at the proposal; we are prepared for the heaviest blows of criticism and opposition, but we would exclaim with the general of old "Πάταξον μὲν οὖν, ἄκουσον δὲ," criticise if you will, but hear our arguments. We seek earnestly the best interests of the lecturers themselves, as well as those of the students, and we beg at least for a fair consideration of our assertion that this is the true mode of filling the school class-rooms, and leaving for the handling of the private teacher the subject of anatomy only.

We shall freely admit that the first result, in some cases, would be completely to empty the class-rooms, and reduce the fees also to nil. What then; is it not obvious that in cases where this result will be due to want of ability in the lecturer, it will merely be a wrong that shall have been rectified, and that the student ought

never to have been required to pay for attendance on such lectures; and on the other hand, where such result shall be owing, not to want of ability in the lecturer, but to his neglect of the adaptation of his teaching to what the student requires, that the defect will admit of an easy remedy, and that such remedy will undoubtedly be applied under the influence of the powerful motives for so doing which will now be brought to bear on the lecturer through his natural wish to fill his class-roll, and his exchequer together therewith. Surely both the theoretical teachings of political economy, and our practical experience therein, are sufficient to establish the maxim that to consult for the interest of the buyer is the true interest of the seller, whether the commodity dealt in be the produce of the toil of the hand or of the brain. The rivalry between different lecturers would then be as to which should best supply the student's wants, a contest in which the man of ability would, as usual, come off best. The man whose class-rooms should still be permanently deserted would feel it incumbent on him to resign to some more talented successor a post for which he would have been obviously proved incompetent; and the rivalry between different schools would be as to which should obtain the services of the man best fitted for the work of instruction, to the evident benefit of the student. Further, every endeavour would then be made by means of drawings, preparations, &c., to engage the interest of the student, as is however unquestionably done by men who really take interest in their subject at present; and, by a careful system of questioning, to ascertain how far he had benefited by his attendance, to keep up his attention, and to aid him in the arrangement, condensation, digestion, and habitual utilisation of his knowledge. The grinder would now be supplanted, except for those subjects, such as anatomy, in which he would himself be the most practical teacher, and the student would have the benefit, in

all branches of his education, of the most earnest endeavours of men practically engaged each in the branch he should teach. Manuals would now be much less used; for who could compare the dry information of a manual, illustrated as it must be by typical cases only, if indeed illustrated by cases at all, to the vivified discourse of a lecturer in earnest about his pupils, and who should have his own personal experience to bring to his aid in illustration of his subject. But it will be said, Will not this be to compel the lecturer to accommodate himself to the student, and leave it to the student to judge what course, or mode of studying a subject, is most beneficial to himself; and is it not the case that the student, though necessarily the only judge of what he himself wants and seeks, is yet a wholly incompetent judge of what is really good for him, really necessary to constitute him a useful practitioner? We reply that this is undoubtedly the case, and would form a most valid objection were it not that the student himself is influenced by a motive of the utmost power, the direction and control of which is wholly in the hands of those who do undoubtedly know what is good for him as he cannot know it himself; and this motive is the requirements of his professional examination. So absolute a sway is indeed held over the mind of the student by this motive that we doubt if one in ten ever considers anything farther; his future usefulness and interests are all cast into the shade by this great looming horror. His educational demands are altogether based upon the requirements of the examination, and the instructions of the grinders are in turn based upon his educational demands. Hence it follows that the instructions of the grinder must be an exact counterpart and reflection of the professional examinations. If the character of the examinations is such as to throw the strain on the student's memory, rather than on his practical knowledge, judgment, and ability, we shall find the grinder devoting

his attention principally to the cultivation of the student's memory to the neglect of these, and this in strict accordance with the irrefragable law of political economy, which invariably proportions the market supply to the market demand; and, per contra, if we find that the grinder is chiefly engaged in cultivating his pupils' memory, we may safely infer that a well-crammed memory is the chief qualification requisite for getting successfully through the examinations. It is evident, therefore, that in order to secure to the authorised and practical school-lecturer an advantage over the private crammer two steps are necessary; first, to make the examination requirements such that practical teaching shall "pay" the student better than manual-reading or memory-cramming; secondly, to take care, by means of free-trade in teaching, that the school-lecturer shall be under the necessity of adapting his lectures to this requirement on the part of the student. We thus throw the guidance of the student's course of study on a board of examiners in their collective capacity, which seems rather better than leaving the matter to each professor to decide for himself as regards his own subject, which must necessarily be the course adopted at present, particularly where the lecturer is also the examiner. Would we then wish to see that hard-working class of private teachers abolished? First, we answer, this would not be possible; secondly, we doubt if it would be advantageous; for they may be regarded as forming what is known in politics as a constitutional check on the school-lecturers, obliging them by the force of market-competition to keep more closely in view the needs and demands of their pupils; thirdly, many of these teachers confine themselves almost entirely to anatomy, in which, through constant demonstration in the dissecting-room, they are "facile principes," and require only the stimulus, to be applied through their pupils, of a solely practical anatomical examination to make their instructions as practical in

their private hours as in their public school demonstrations; fourthly, an amalgamation of interests might perhaps be possible, the recognised school-lecturer supplementing his public class instructions by private hours; recollecting, however, that under such an arrangement what we have called the free-trade system of school-lectures would be more than ever necessary, lest the lecturer might be in presence of a temptation to divide his discourses into esoteric and exoteric, like the philosophers of old, reserving their more valuable instructions for their private classes. Lastly, the system above proposed of practical tutorial teaching by the resident medical officer of a hospital, if supported by a system of professional examination absolutely requiring practical knowledge on the part of the candidate, would go far towards abolishing "grinding" properly so called, *i.e.* mere cramming, altogether, or at least would reduce it to anatomical teaching merely, the character and style of which, as of all other private teaching, must depend altogether on the character and style of the examination for which it is intended as a preparation. We need scarcely remark that the whole tendency of such a free-trade system as we advocate would be to augment the classes of the competent, the talented, and the experienced teacher, at the expense of him who should be deficient in these qualities.

In addition to the points we have already mentioned as rendering the existence of the class of private teachers of value, there is one other important advantage connected with the existence of their body the loss of which would be a great injury to the cause of high and successful professional teaching; and this is that the body of private teachers is a feeder from which the body of recognised teachers is supplied with high class men. We have again to insist on the point that to instruct others is the very best mode of instructing one's-self, that to employ your knowledge for the elevation and

education of others is the surest way to make it tenfold more securely and substantially your own. It is, therefore, amongst men who have consolidated their knowledge, arranged and perfected it, and impressed it on their own minds by private teaching that the best lecturers for the recognised chairs will be found. When a man shall have proved his powers of organisation and instruction, and attained to some status and reputation as a private teacher, he will have proved himself the right person to draw a class in a recognised school, to the benefit of the school itself, and to instruct that class, when formed, to the benefit of the student. An eminent professor of the Edinburgh School of Medicine has proposed that all aspirants to the post of teacher, meaning, we presume, all candidates for appointments as recognised teachers, should be examined by a board, and made to deliver a lecture in public, before receiving permission to give instruction; this could hardly be enforced when private or hospital schools are recognised; they must be allowed to select their own lecturers; and if the men thus selected to fill these posts should have no previous experience as private teachers the Systematic education of the student would suffer a serious injury.

As regards the subjects to be taught in the schools, there seems to be at present one omission of a very serious character; the study of Special Pathology and Morbid Anatomy is one becoming every day of more and more importance, and the light shed on disease, and also on the science of therapeutics, by its means is every day becoming better recognised, yet we find no provision made for instructing students in this most important branch of medical study; the reason of this is perhaps in part that it is a branch of study not readily to be taught in a school of medicine, being more properly connected with a hospital; but undoubtedly this ought not to prevent the establishment of a special chair for this department, a man of eminence and experience in

this special subject being selected to fill it, under whom, as professor, the resident medical officer of the hospital should act as assistant and tutor.

It will be observed that the distinction we have made between hospital and school teaching, in other words between practical and systematic instruction, is that attendance on the hospital or practical teaching should be compulsory, and on the systematic or school-lectures optional, the strongest motives being, however, presented to the student for attending the lectures, in the character of the pass examination; we have, however, included anatomy as one of the practical and compulsory subjects; morbid anatomy being also an eminently practical subject, and, moreover, a hospital study, as we propose, we would make attendance on this course, in the museum and deadhouse, compulsory, and require it for the completion of the third and fourth hospital years. It is hardly necessary to remark that of such a course the use of the microscope ought to form an essential part; as indeed it also ought to be of the systematic course of General Anatomy and Physiology.

We may now, perhaps, sketch out very briefly the medical course of a practical and earnest student, such as we should wish it to be, and such as we think would best conduce to a practical and thorough knowledge of his profession. Taking first the winter session of his two junior years at hospital, the student would go round with the surgeon of the day at, say, half-past eight, and with the physician of the day, a duty never to be omitted any more than his surgical attendance, at ten; from eleven till twelve clinical lecture in the theatre; on days when there should be no clinical lecture this hour might be spent in case-taking; lecture on General Anatomy and Physiology in the school till one; Practical Anatomical lecture till two; Dissections from two till four; this will make a good practical day of more than seven hours; an hour's walk, and a quiet hour

for dinner, will be far from unbusiness-like or unpractical portions of the programme; and if he then gives two hours to tutorial instruction, on his hospital cases and on Practical Anatomy, and an hour a-half to reading at home on the same, he will have made eleven hours of hard, and what is even more, of practical work, and have done, we think, all that the most rigorous guardian could ask. The mere fact that practical work will occupy so much time in the junior years, and we hardly see what could be safely omitted in the above sketch, is enough to show that lectures other than practical and tutorial, *i.e.* on anatomy and hospital cases, would, at this period at least, be almost time thrown away; the student's business in his junior years is to observe; to collect materials which he may afterwards, with assistance, erect into an edifice according to rule and method.

During his first two summer sessions he will advantageously substitute Practical Compounding with the hospital apothecary for the lecture on General Anatomy, and Laboratory work for that of the dissecting room. We believe that far too little attention is at present given to Laboratory work and Practical Chemistry, and that many of the future triumphs of medicine are to be won in the direction of Organic, and more particularly of Animal Chemistry.

During the third and fourth winter sessions Hospital attendance, the most important part of the student's work, would, of course, be as before, with the exception that he ought now to be systematically required to do dressing, bandaging, minor operations with outpatients, &c. We consider that these two hospital years ought to be given to *doing*, as the first two to *observing*. And accordingly Clinical Clerk's work in the medical wards ought in the fourth year to replace the Dresser's work of the third year in the surgical wards.

The hours given in the junior years to the two Anatomical lectures ought now to be given to the Professor

of Pathology, and to Morbid Anatomy demonstrations, and work in the dead-house, taking up both Medical and Surgical Pathology. From two o'clock the student would probably have time at his disposal, and accordingly this is the period at which he could best attend systematic lectures; moreover we think that this is the period in his course when he would derive most benefit from such lectures; he would have some practical knowledge of what the professor should be talking about; it would not be all an unknown tongue to him as it is to the mere novice; descriptions would accord with what he had seen; memory would suggest to him illustrative hospital cases; drawings and preparations would set forth to him understood realities, not vague idola, pictures and nothing more; the professor would not have to dwell so much on first principles, to him a great relief, and if he gave time to questioning his class he might expect satisfactory answers. We well remember in our own student days how completely different to our perceptions and comprehension practical courses delivered after hospital attendance were from the same courses delivered previous to the same. In the first case we gained nothing, understood nothing, carried away nothing; the lecturers' words (some of them were men of world-wide fame as teachers) conveyed no ideas to our mind. When we heard the same courses at a later date we at least understood what the professors were talking about, and carried away solid information in proportion to our receptive capacity and ability.

In the summer sessions of these two years the student might take up his courses of Operative Surgery, Midwifery, Mental Diseases, and Opthalmology, giving at least three months to practical study of each. We specify the last two subjects as generally necessary, and would require from every student this practical study of each, not because it is possible that any student might be led to make either of them a speciality in after prac-

tice, nor yet because every student must of necessity meet with some examples of disease of each class in the course of his after practice, but because we believe that disease in either of these directions is part of a whole, is in fact not, in general, a special or local disease, and that, in the treatment of general disease, the knowledge to be arrived at by the consideration of signs and symptoms which are hardly to be observed or understood except by those who have studied these branches, will frequently throw great light upon the causes, relations, and treatment of such general disease.

As regards hospital residence, we should be glad to see every hospital make it a rule to accommodate within its walls, or in lodgings in an adjacent house held by its authorities, and having internal communication with the wards, a certain proportion of its students, according to the number of beds which it might on an average have filled, which proportion, however, might be very much larger in a hospital where regular clinical instruction should be given than in a country institution, say, one resident pupil for every ten beds kept occupied on the yearly average, such students having the especial care of the patients occupying these beds, of course under the resident medical officer; and we should be glad to see these most valuable offices made the reward of distinguished answering at examinations to be held at the close of the second winter and summer sessions, and perhaps again at the commencement of the third winter session. We would suggest that the students should be examined in Anatomy, Materia Medica and Pharmacy, and their two years observations on practical Medicine and Surgery; a kind of prior test in fact, by the hospital staff, of what would have to be afterwards more thoroughly gone through before the licensing bodies, a sort of medical "Little go" at the end of the Freshman years. The examinations might, if it should seem advisable, be taken at three separate terms, viz., Anatomy

at the end of the second winter session, Materia Medica, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the end of the second summer session, and practical observations on medicine and surgery, with examination of the student's hospital case-book and questioning thereon, at the commencement of the third winter session. Then the student, having become a resident pupil, might give his attention specially to his ten surgical beds during his third winter session, and to his ten medical beds during the ensuing summer six months, thus completing the year's residence which we have above urged as valuable for practical training. The alternate batch of students, who should have commenced with the medical wards in the winter session, would of course take up the surgical beds during the six months summer session.

The advantage of allowing the examination to be divided, the medical and surgical portion being taken when the student should come up again from the country, and the award being made by adding together the marks of the three portions, would obviously be that the earnest student, who should be determined to succeed, would be led to pass his summer holidays within the walls of some country institution, in order to obtain such farther habitude and skill there as might serve him in his examination for the post of resident pupil, and also serve him in the discharge of the duties, sometimes somewhat arduous, of that post.

As regards the students who, either from want of diligence or want of brains, should be beaten in this competitive trial, and be unable to obtain resident offices within their clinical hospital, we would by no means allow them to substitute residence in a country hospital for their clinical sessions, but the fact that they shall have proved inferior at the examination for these offices will be sufficient to show that a little more time devoted to their studies will be necessary to put them on a par with the more successful competitors, and though we

should consider it necessary that they should take out their year's residence in a country hospital in addition to their clinical sessions, yet by using for this purpose the summer vacation of their second, third and fourth years, that is to say nine months, they will be kept back only another three months behind their more earnest or more talented fellow-students. The immense and valuable stimulus given by such an arrangement as this to the earnestness and diligence of the student cannot be over-estimated either in its educational or moral value; while even for the unsuccessful student undoubtedly a year spent as resident pupil within a country hospital would be better spent, and serve him more directly in the passing of his professional examination, than the same amount of time spent in idly hanging about his clinical wards as a "chronic." We say he had better be a working "chronic" in the country than an idle one in town.

As we remarked in a previous paragraph, we should not allow any hospital residence to count in the twelve months which we would require from every student until the examination in Anatomy, and those in Pharmacy, Materia Medica, and Analytical and Pharmaceutical Chemistry should have been satisfactorily passed at the end of the second winter and summer sessions respectively.

We come now to the consideration of the professional examinations, by which as we have before remarked, we believe that the whole of a student's course can be guided as a ship is guided by the helm in the course in which that helm itself comes last like the student's examination.

It may perhaps seem a trite observation at this time of day to say that the professional examinations ought to be made as practical as possible; for this is the cry that proceeds from the whole profession, and much has already been done in this direction. Yet, that we may

not omit what seems so essential to the subject of this paper, we may say, that we would wish to see examinations in Anatomy conducted by dissection and demonstration on the dead body, bidding the candidate describe what will be seen on making such and such a section or dissection, then letting him actually make it, and demonstrate what he has described; it is obvious that this mode of examination, and this only, will change the student's anatomical studies from a cramming of the memory only, in the grinder's study, to a practical study on the dissecting table. And this has for some time back been not only appreciated but acted on by certain of the more advanced and progressive of our licensing corporations, so that we feel ourselves somewhat behind the time in urging it; nor should we do so but that, first, it has been specially prescribed to us, and secondly, it is undoubtedly the fact that this mode of examination is not adopted by all the licensing boards, nor has it perhaps been so fully systematised and emphatically enforced as we should wish to see done, but we can appreciate the extreme difficulties that stand in the way of this being done by any one board, however clearly they may see the need of it, and however much they wish to enforce it, so long as other boards hang back and decline co-operation; we are inclined to think therefore that at the present time the consideration of what has been enjoined on us, viz. "the most practicable mode of rendering the examination as demonstrative as possible," will to a great extent resolve itself into the consideration as to how certain corporations, which evince no wish to adopt a practical and demonstrative mode of examination, are to be induced to follow the lead of certain others which take every pains to consider the question, and, as far as may be done without emptying their halls of candidates, to adopt and enforce it. For it is evident that if a student of one School of Medicine can obtain a less practical examination, which as a

rule he greatly prefers, at another place, the regulations and mode of examination adopted by the leading corporations at home will after all have very little effect in guiding the course or mode of his studies, or making the tests more practical in his case, since he will deliberately set himself to study according to the regulations and mode of examination which will pass him elsewhere, and return, after an agreeable trip, to flaunt his diplomas in the face of his slighted home corporations. Thus cramming in the study of the grinder will go on as vigorously as ever, and dissection be pursued no more vigorously than at present. We do not say that the student does not dissect at present, but we say that he certainly does not trust to this mode only of acquiring anatomical knowledge; nor do we say that the private teacher's instructions will be unnecessary if the anatomical examination be made more practical, for we believe that they will be more than ever necessary; but their theatre will be changed from the teacher's private study to his school dissecting room. Similarly when the examination in Operative Surgery is conducted in every place as it now is in some places by actual operative proceedings on the dead body, and not by a verbal description, then there is no doubt whatever but that the student will qualify himself for such a test by practice with the professor of Operative Surgery before he presents himself for examination.

In Chemistry again, presuming that theoretical chemistry shall have been made, as we conceive, and have urged, that it ought to be, a subject of the preliminary examination, we would make the candidate describe analytical processes, such as might occupy too long a time actually to perform; we would place in his hands solutions, and bid him ascertain, by such tests as he might select, what substances were held in solution; we would make him describe and conduct one or two volumetric tests, and one or two of the less tedious

pharmacopeia processes. It is obvious that this part of the examination ought to be conducted in the laboratory as the preceding part would almost necessarily be in the dissecting room.

Again as regards Medicine and Surgery, no one surely can suppose that any examination is satisfactory in these subjects which does not place the candidate by the bedside of the patient and make him interrogate him, in itself an art only to be acquired as the result of skill, knowledge, and practice, make him show that he can, so to speak, find the trail or scent of the disease, and having found it can hunt it down by a process of exclusion, casting aside one by one, by skilful discriminative tests, the various ideal forms which will start up to lead him aside from the true object of his pursuit; or, to change our simile for a different case, let him show that, like an eagle selecting his quarry from the crowd at a single glance, and at once swooping down and securing it, he can at once, perhaps by a single symptom, hit the true nature of the case, and then show that the process of exclusion leads to the same result, for thus the careful practitioner will always check his instinctive aim, his appreciation of the general facies of the case, or of one of its particular symptoms; thus then having shown his power of diagnosis, let the candidate form a prognosis, showing that he is acquainted with the probable results of the case; let him state, not by the patient's bedside, the post-mortem appearances he would expect to find, either in case of death at some future period from the disease, or at the moment, should any unforeseen casualty cause it then; finally, let him point out the principles which should guide the treatment, and illustrate them by one or two practical prescriptions to suit the immediate wants of the case. We foresee two objections to such a system of clinical examination; the first, that all our licensing boards are not so directly connected with hospitals as to have the right of access for such a purpose; but

surely a courteous application to the Governors would meet with a courteous answer, and the undertaking of an agreement for such a purpose; for hospital authorities are as well aware as the hospital staff that one grand purpose of these institutions is to afford means for a proper education, and suitable future supply, of qualified medical men. The other and more formidable objection is that the patients themselves would not bear it, inasmuch as though they will bear being examined by the members of the hospital class, for the sake of the benefits of treatment they receive in hospital, such an examination as we propose is something special and extraordinary; but since the student is the person receiving the immediate benefit, we would propose that he should give a small but definite gratuity to each of the four or five patients whom he might be called on to examine; most of the patients are poor, and a time of sickness is in general a time that presses hardly on their humble resources, and we believe that in most cases even a trifle, from six or eight candidates of a class, would be far from unacceptable or undesired.

Then ought to follow an examination in the museum of the hospital, on casts, drawings and preparations, which would no doubt be gladly placed at the disposal of the examiners by the hospital staff and the curator, though indeed it would not be necessary to have recourse to a hospital for such a purpose, since every licensing body of any repute has an ample museum of its own. An examination of, and questioning on, the candidate's hospital case-book ought to follow; the mere allusion to such an investigation is sufficient to show at once how completely the student's previous course of work is under the control of the final examination; no student would neglect hospital case-taking if he knew that his note-book would be carefully examined, and that on it in a great degree would depend the question of his passing or being rejected. For Midwifery, as at pre-

sent, we consider that a certificate of personal attendance on a certain number of hospital cases, with an examination on the theory of obstetric practice, would be sufficient; but we cannot but protest against the idea that so small a number as six cases, as required by some institutions, is anything approaching to a guarantee of even the most rudimentary practical knowledge of the subject; thirty cases personally attended seems to us the smallest number that ought to be accepted. We have further to remark on this subject that all licences not specially forbidding it are considered by their holders to entitle them to practise Midwifery, and this without any special qualification in this branch; now this branch, though a speciality, is one that every practitioner out of town engages in; out of town it is considered a branch of ordinary practice; hence it seems to us either that Midwifery, theoretical and practical, ought to be included in the requirements for ordinary licences, or else, where a special licence for midwifery is conferred, that it should not be optional with the candidate for an ordinary licence whether he take the midwifery licence or no, but that he ought to be absolutely required so to do; otherwise what guarantee is there that he is competent to practise this branch, as he unquestionably will do?

As regards the mode of conducting the examinations, we think that they might with advantage be conducted on the system so long in use in the different universities, the system found most satisfactory by men who are examiners by profession, as affording the best and most constant scale by which to judge of merit, whether positive or comparative; namely, that each paper of questions should be of a fixed value, defined beforehand, in proportion to the number of marks fixed to represent the whole value of the examination; that the examiner should estimate the value of each written answer by a fixed numerical scale, the highest number of which, if

gained for every question on the paper, should just bring the award for the whole paper up to the value fixed for it beforehand, reduction on a proportionate scale being of course allowable for the sum total of a candidate's answers if convenience led the examiners to award a higher number of marks than this as the full value of each question; further, the vivâ voce examination ought also to have its relative value fixed beforehand, a definite proportion or percentage of value being also assigned to each definite subject, such as clinique, museum, case-book, &c., so as to make up 100 per cent. on the whole examination. If this system were followed, however, any examiner ought to have the power to put a veto on a candidate's passing, even if he should exceed the percentage of marks ordinarily considered sufficient to permit of his passing, since a single answer might evince an amount of ignorance which might with good reason, especially in a practical subject, invalidate the results of the whole of the rest of the examination, proving in fact the candidate's incompetence to practise safely; of such answers Dr. E. A. Parkes on one occasion gave several examples before the General Medical Council.

We must now come to the difficult and very delicate questions regarding examiners. We have said that the student's educational course depends altogether on the character of the final examination; we have now to add that the character of this examination depends altogether upon the examiners. We suppose that, stated as a theoretical proposition, few persons will deny that, be the subject of examination what it may, within or without the range of our professional studies, no person is really competent, as a rule, to act as an examiner therein who is not practically engaged in teaching the same. This is the rule adopted in most of our professional licensing bodies no doubt, and in Ireland it is a rule all but universal; and rightly so, for there can be no doubt that by no other means than the constant

study of a subject, such as is necessitated by the requirements of teaching, can that clearness of arrangement and practical familiarity with details be maintained which is so essentially necessary to the competency of the examiner. Where the examiner is not thus constantly kept "up" in his subject by practical teaching he cannot be familiar with the present state of his science, be it what it may, for science in these days advances with such prodigious strides as rapidly to leave behind any one who at any point ceases his energetic and persistent efforts to keep abreast of her, such efforts as, it is universally admitted, can hardly be maintained except under the stimulus presented by the necessity of giving instruction in the subject of study.

Gentlemen who devote their whole attention to the teaching of Anatomy, and make this their means of subsistence, have been known to affirm to their class that were they, for even the space of a year, to cease practical dissection, anatomical details would begin to become less distinct in their minds. Nor can this possibly be otherwise, constituted as the human mind is; and the same may with equal truth be affirmed in the case of Medicine and Surgery, Physiology, Chemistry, and indeed all other sciences. Why do we insist so much on this point? Is it not an admitted fact? We reply that it is, nevertheless, not invariably acted upon; and that the omission, rare as it may be among our licensing corporations, has yet a most injurious effect upon the profession at large, for a chain cannot be stronger than its weakest link. It is, we believe, an unquestionable, and much to be regretted, fact that students can obtain a full qualification for the practice of Medicine by passing an examination in the usual subjects of Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, Botany, Medicine, Surgery, Pathology, before a certain Board of Examiners of which not a single member either is, or, we believe, ever has been, a public teacher in any one of the above-

mentioned subjects. We cannot consider this a satisfactory mode of obtaining entrance to our profession; such an instance may no doubt be exceptional, but yet it tends strongly to lower the tone of examinations elsewhere; and, moreover, though it may perhaps be exceptional as regards a whole board, yet undoubtedly an examiner will be found here and there at other boards who does not teach in the subject in which he examines, and who is consequently more or less under the necessity of special preparation for the examination; he may indeed even be forty or fifty years behind the time of day in the branch in which he examines, and his whole knowledge of the subject, as at present understood, may be derived from manuals; indeed an instance is well-known to have occurred not long ago, in which a paper on Physiology had to be withdrawn after being for half a morning in the hands of candidates for the fellowship of an eminent professional corporation, and this in consequence of a mistake in the subject which was at once ludicrous and painful. No doubt Surgical Anatomy is a fair subject for a surgeon, as such, to examine in; but as regards Anatomy, as such, the Practical Anatomy of the schools, though it is undoubtedly true that men of eminent talent will be found who have been able, during years of surgical practice, so to keep in mind anatomical details as to be fully competent to examine in this subject, yet we cannot help thinking that the precedent so set must be an exceedingly bad one, warranting, in fact, such a serious deviation from the ordinary constitution of examining boards as that which we have felt compelled specially to advert to above.

It cannot be doubted by any unbiassed thinker that the appointment of examiners who are not teachers in their respective subjects, meaning by teachers recognised hospital or school lecturers, is one of the fundamental causes of the success of, and consequent demand for, the system of teaching popularly denominated

"cramming" which we have discussed above, that is to say the imposing of a strain rather on the student's memory of words than his knowledge of things; the abuse of the tutorial system, of which, as we hope we have shown, such valuable use might be made. It is obvious that if an examiner is not familiar, as a teacher must needs be, with the whole of his subject in all its details, that he will feel himself better prepared as regards some special part of it, and accordingly somewhat inclined to select that part for the examination, perhaps to prepare it specially, finding it easier than any other part to refresh his mind on, and even to ask a pretty uniform set or class of questions on it, more particularly if it is a subject which may have somewhat faded from his memory, and for which he may have to rely to a considerable degree on his reading up; now the rapidity, we had almost said the intuitive instinct, with which a practised "grinder" appreciates this state of things is something astonishing; we have known men specify to their pupils the precise portion of their subject which they ought to prepare for such and such an examiner; and obviously the bad effect of this is not confined to the single instance in which a particular candidate, who ought not to have passed, succeeds in doing so by means of such a special direction, and such a strain on his memory for a few days, but it has also the result of impressing on others who are still students a carelessness regarding practical work, nay more even a disbelief as regards their safety at the examination if they rely on this solely, and a conviction, as we have heard them express it, that "the grind is the great thing after all," and in particular that "there is great value in So and so's strap." We fear it would not be necessary to inform any student that a "strap grind" means a special adaptation of the evening's instruction to the probable character of the examination which certain members of the class may have in prospect a day or two subsequently.

The obvious remedy for this state of things is that all gentlemen, however well qualified they may feel themselves, and be acknowledged by all their compeers to be, to examine in a given subject, shall yet for the sake of the profession, the reputation of their College, the elevating their own Corporation into a model for others, and the ceasing to countenance, by their precedent, cases of really serious and flagrant defect in this matter elsewhere, that they shall, we say, make it a point of honour to decline to examine in any subject which they shall not be, at the time, engaged in teaching, either in hospital or in some school of medicine.

As regards the period of passing his examinations there is an obvious advantage in allowing the student to unburden his mind and memory from the excessive strain of too great a number of subjects at once, and to leave his attention free for practical studies during his two senior years; and we cannot but think not only that the recent very general move in this direction is a good one, but also that it might with great advantage be carried even farther; especially that, as we have incidentally remarked already, the student might be allowed to take his examination in Materia Medica, Practical Pharmacy, and Practical Chemistry both Analytical and Pharmaceutical, at the end of his second summer session; the advantage of this might be still further enhanced if it should become the custom, or rule, as proposed by a very eminent clinical professor of the Scotch metropolis, that students should commence their course in the summer session, in which case they would study Materia Medica and Pharmacy as a basis for hospital study, and previous to their commencing Practical Anatomy, and might pass their examination in these subjects, with Chemistry, nine months previous to the very serious ordeal of the examination in Practical Anatomy. The subjects connected with Practical Surgery they might perhaps be allowed to take at the

end of their third year's complete sessions, thus allowing them to give more undivided attention to the subjects connected with Practical Medicine during their fourth year's sessions; but they ought not to be permitted to receive any licence whatsoever until this fourth year's studies should be completed, and the examination in Practical Medicine at its termination successfully passed.

This brings us at once to the consideration of the double qualification, a feature of great importance recently introduced by the Royal Colleges of England, and which promises much for the advance of the profession. It will be said perhaps that the practice of conferring a double qualification has long been adopted by the Scotch colleges; but it must be remarked that with them the taking of both diplomas is an optional matter with the student, and hence valueless as an educational arrangement, whereas the distinctive and important feature of the regulation adopted by the English Colleges is that the double qualification shall henceforth be compulsory. This is especially a consideration for a Surgical College, inasmuch as the surgical licence is by far the most universally taken, and the requirement that a medical licence shall be held in addition is undoubtedly a move towards educational uniformity and professional unity. The advisability of the measure as regards practice is obvious, not only because the study of one branch of the profession greatly widens, deepens, and strengthens a man's acquaintance with the other, but also because, wherever a man's lot may be cast, as one of our ordinary practitioners, constituting nine-tenths of the profession, he will frequently have to treat cases belonging as well to one as to the other branch of our art. The physician pure, and surgeon pure, are comparatively rare exceptions. In country practice the greater number of cases met with are medical. The Irish College of Surgeons no doubt examines all candi-

dates for its licence not only in Surgery and Anatomy, but also in Medicine and the allied subjects, and herein shows its care both for the reputation of the profession and the safety of the public, and presents a most favourable contrast to certain other bodies that might be named. It has done what it could; singlehanded it could accomplish no more; but yet it is well-known that its requiring its candidates to pass in these subjects does not entitle them, when they present themselves for appointments in the Public or Poor-law services, to be considered as possessing a qualification equivalent to a double one. And it by no means follows that unanimity and cordial co-operation between two or more licensing corporations might not be able to effect more than any one body could possibly accomplish singlehanded. It would seem to us highly desirable that the Irish College of Physicians should obtain an Act of Parliament, for such would seem to be necessary, enabling it to institute a lower order of licence, analogous to that of Licentiate of the English College, forbidding its holder to keep open shop, sell medicines generally, or compound prescriptions, but allowing him to supply his own patients with medicine, and to practise as a general practitioner, a licence to be in every way the same as the licence of the English College, and on the holder of which the title of Licentiate should be conferred, altering at the same time the title of the present Licentiates to that of Member, and transferring their dignities and privileges along therewith, so as to have the same name for the same thing throughout the three kingdoms. This would not involve any change in the nature of the Corporation of the Irish College of Physicians, but it would have the advantage of removing the inferiority in name of Irish Physicians as compared with those of England and Scotland, since the Irish Physician, though professionally and socially the equal of the English or Scotch, and indeed much more

generally the possessor of a university education and degree in Arts than either of them, is yet known by a name which seems inferior, being that conferred by the English and Scotch Colleges on gentlemen of lower grade than the physician, and in fact ranking and practising as general practitioners. Then, this change being accomplished, we should wish to see the Irish College of Surgeons follow the example of the English, although admittedly not under the same obligation to do so on account of its own medical examination, yet for the sake of advancing the reputation of the profession, and removing all grounds for the prejudice of the public against men who, whatever their knowledge may be, yet come before them as possessors of but one qualification. We should wish, we say, to see the Irish Royal Colleges of Surgeons and Physicians entering into an agreement that neither would confer a licence in its own branch without the candidate having first passed the examination, and paid the fees, for the licence of the other. We have pointed out that this would be a matter of much satisfaction to the public, and much honour to the profession; it is scarcely necessary to remark that it would also be a matter of much emolument to both one College and the other. We cannot consider that the holder of such a licence ought to have conceded to him any greater facility of examination, or lower standard of professional requirements, than the physician, seeing that he must of necessity encounter cases as difficult and responsibilities as arduous as the latter; the advantage which he would have to counterbalance his somewhat inferior licence and position would be an advantage of pecuniary emolument such as the general practitioner always possesses over the physician in consequence of dispensing his own medicines. The physician's class of patients may, it is true, pay him better when they employ him, but since they are much less numerous, he cannot, in country districts at least, ex-

pect the same amount of annual returns as the general practitioner.

The consideration of such an agreement as that above-mentioned being made between the two leading Colleges suggests further to us the question whether it might not be possible still farther to extend the system of co-operation therein implied; whether, in fact, it might not be possible to establish such a system of co-operation between the different licensing bodies as shall specialise, and so utilise, the peculiar examining qualifications of each, to their common advantage as we believe, and undoubtedly to that of the profession. This might be done quite irrespective of the actual granting of licences by each. We conceive that an arrangement somewhat after the following kind might be made between the licensing bodies of the Irish capital.

Let it be delegated to the University of Dublin to conduct the Preliminary Examination of all medical students; education and examination in arts being the peculiar and special function of this institution. Similarly, let all students be required, at the end of their second summer session, to pass their examination in Chemistry, Analytical and Pharmaceutical, in Botany, until this subject is made preliminary, and in Pharmacy and Materia Medica, at the Apothecaries' Hall, before a Board composed of their lecturers on these subjects, provided they consent to appoint such lecturers, and the professors of Chemistry and Botany of the other corporations. Let the third examination, in Anatomy, at the end of the second winter session, and the fourth, in Surgery, at the end of the third winter or summer session according as the arrangement is made to commence study in summer or winter respectively, in short at the end of twenty-seven months clinical instruction, let these two examinations, we say, be passed by all students before the Board of the Royal College of Surgeons; and finally, let the fifth examination, in Medi-

cine, be passed before the examiners of the Royal College of Physicians with the professors of medicine of the School of Physic in Ireland. The fee for each of these five examinations ought to be fixed; it ought to be irrespective of the charges made for the different licences, and it ought to be unreturnable in case of failure, indeed a small additional fee ought rather to be demanded for each repetition of the examinations. No licence ought to be given until the student should have passed all these examinations, and then he ought to be at liberty to take any double qualification he might prefer, being held to be equally qualified for every branch of his profession; the university degrees being, however, as at present, an honour conferred on graduates in arts only. Were such a course as this adopted the Irish qualifications would at once become the leading qualifications of the United Kingdom; and students would flock over to their examinations here as they now do to the Rotunda Hospital, those thus attracted being obviously only those of the higher class of attainments. As a matter of detail, if the University of Dublin were constituted by agreement the sole examining body in preliminary education, it might fairly be requested and expected in return, and in consideration of the fees derivable therefrom, to cease to issue its mere licences in Medicine and Surgery, and to confine itself to degrees, to be conferred, as we said, on graduates in arts only.

The suggestion of the possibility that students of a high class from England might come to seek a high qualification in Ireland leads us to remark that the localisation of study which is even now enforced by some licensing bodies is an undoubted mistake, and one which unquestionably recoils upon the corporations which adopt it; first, because just in the same degree in which they preclude, or place restrictions on, the candidates for their diplomas studying elsewhere, to the *same extent* will those who would naturally be candi-

dates for other licences be precluded from study within their walls; secondly, it is a matter of obvious policy that, when a candidate presents himself, the question ought to be, what he has learned, not, where he learned it; if he is qualified as regards his knowledge to disqualify him on account of his place of study is merely to forego the fee for his diploma.

We have to bear in mind that while on the one hand students of a high class are irresistibly attracted towards the quarter in which the examinations are of the stiffest character, the attraction being of course the high reputation of the licence to be gained by passing the same, so that, like knights of old to some perilous achievement, numbers press forward to the trial, allured by the very difficulty it presents, and undeterred by the failure of many of their companions, yet, on the other hand, a constant stream of students of the lowest class sets in the other direction, that namely in which the examinations are easiest, in which the superior character sometimes claimed for them is known only to exist on paper, in the schedule of requirements, or it may be in the questions set on the examination paper, but where nevertheless the difficulty of such questions is well known to bear no relation to the character and style required in the answers. We do not specify the direction in which this current sets; if there is any difficulty in ascertaining it the discovery may easily be made by inquiring of the worst qualified and most incompetent students of a senior class where they purpose to seek their diploma; distance presents but slight obstacles in these days; one thing is certain, there is no return current;

"Vestigia terrent
Omnia te adversum spectantia, nulla retrorsum."

Few corporations, perhaps, are more shunned by this class of students than the Irish College of Surgeons; its reputation no doubt is maintained; the class of men passed by it is respected by the public, and its Licen-

tiates obtain high success at the public service examinations; and its funds perhaps scarcely suffer, for the men thus admitted elsewhere to the profession either have failed already with it, as in many cases, or must have failed, as in many more; but the profession undoubtedly suffers from the admission of a low class of men, many of whom have already been pronounced unqualified by the College; and the public suffers from the admission of such practitioners to their confidence, who ought to have been excluded therefrom. We trust, therefore, that when, after having surveyed the state of the profession at large, we come to make some suggestions regarding the inter-national elevation of the examination test, we shall find that propositions made with the view of checking this current of inferior students towards corporations of inferior repute will meet the approbation of those corporations which seek to maintain a high standard, and whose undoubted interest it is, for their own sake, as well as for that of the profession and the public, to insist, as far as may be done, that other bodies shall maintain a standard no lower than theirs.

It will scarcely need any argument to prove that the public suffer through the confidence which the name of a diploma induces them to place in men of inferior abilities, education, or professional knowledge, and through the admission of such men to practise amongst them, and more especially amongst the humbler classes, the bone and sinew of our country's strength, whose numbers make it impossible to over-rate their national importance. Every life lost even among these through ignorance and incompetence must be set down as lost not merely to the family, or even to the district, but to the country; for we have at length reached such a point of knowledge of the principles of political economy that we now recognise the fact that the wealth of a nation is its men; that workers are to a nation what bees are to a hive, that whereon its stores, its resources, depend.

The national importance, therefore, of high-class medical skill being provided even for the humblest can scarcely be over-rated. Yet let us consider the pauper classes, meaning thereby at present all who come under the operation of the Medical Charities Acts, or other Acts providing for the medical relief of the poor. We find the selection of the medical attendants of this class of our population left to the judgment of men many of whom are in very humble life, and wholly unfitted by education or habits of thought to form any judgment whatever as to the qualifications of a medical man, and to all of whom economy in the administration of the funds entrusted to their charge is of the most supreme importance, seeing indeed that these funds are maintained by self-imposed charges. Hence the first and most important consideration with them is, for how little can the services of a medical man be procured; as to the skill testified by his qualifications, they are, in nine cases out of ten, wholly incompetent to judge of them; nor is it indeed a matter of concern with most of them, for their selection is made with reference to wholly different considerations. Economy, then, being the first consideration, and qualifications and skill nowhere, we find that in Ireland, with districts to be attended to of such a size as to require a horse and vehicle, with servant, &c., at a cost of not less than £40 a-year, districts of a size averaging from 40 to 80 square miles, and ranging as high as 229 square miles, salaries range from £120 down to £60 according to the wealth of the district, by no means according to its size, for in the extreme case referred to the salary was long but £90, and skilled professional labour is required in return, day and night, under all circumstances of difficulty, all the year round, and for all classes of the population from the day-labourer up to the 40 or 60-acre farmer, or the shopkeeper in corresponding circumstances, on the sole condition that they ask for a visiting ticket.

from some publican or grocer whom they deal with, and who happens to be on the list of guardians. Ὦτα ὀφθαλμῶν ἀπιστότερα; γράφω τοίνυν ἃ εἶδον, οὐχ ἃ ἤκουσα.

In England again, though districts are usually smaller, and midwifery cases are specially paid for, which is not the case in Ireland, yet the medical man is obliged to provide his own medicines and medical appliances, while salaries are found so low as £20 a-year, so that the arduous, laborious, and responsible Poor Law service of the country is frequently discharged at an actual pecuniary loss to the practitioner who undertakes it. It will be said, though not we hope by professional men, that a man holds such Poor Law practice merely to secure a monopoly of the district, and prevent some other practitioner from depriving him of the private practice on which he more especially relies for his bread. We reply that in Ireland this is seldom the case, a monopoly is rarely retained by accepting the underpaid Poor Law work, but the income to be realised by private practice is so small, owing to the very fact that there are too many to compete for it, that a man is glad to add a little to his income, however disproportionate the emolument offered may be to the amount of work required in return. In England, again, where more may be made of practice, the mere fact that, if the present holder of a Poor Law appointment were to throw it up, another man could at once be found to work it at a loss, shows unquestionably the same over-pressure of professional competition at work there. The fact that Poor Law work can be done at such salaries, and by men who at any rate possess regular qualifications, is that which presents itself most readily and naturally to the mind of the Poor-Law Guardian. He fails to recognise the counterpart to this fact, that, as emoluments decrease, the class of men obtainable must deteriorate also; and when we speak of emoluments decreasing we do not mean thereby that there is necessarily a diminution in

the sum nominally and actually paid, but either that this fails to increase along with the rise in the price of other labour in the market, and consequently of all necessaries, or that the amount of work required in return becomes greater, or even that, by the indiscriminate affording of medical charity to those whose circumstances entitle them to pay for medical attendance, the amount of private practice to be realised in the district yearly becomes less. It is evident that whether it be inferior skill, or inferior experience, that results from the underpaying of Poor Law medical men, the humbler classes alike suffer, and with them both the ratepayers of the district, and the national welfare of the country, and this to an extent that must far more than counterbalance the difference of salary that would be necessary to obtain a thoroughly efficient and experienced man, and, having obtained him, to keep him.

Perhaps it may be asked, What have the colleges, and the directors of medical education and qualifications to say to all this? We hope ere long to be able to show that the national welfare of the country is in this respect entrusted to their care, and that they are able to take care that none but thoroughly competent men shall be turned out to hold such important trusts, or to offer their services to Poor Law Guardians; and this quite irrespective of the question what salaries it may in consequence become necessary for Boards of Guardians to offer in order to get the poor attended to by the best men. It will no doubt be said that many Poor Law officers are men of high attainments and skill; and this is no doubt the case; are these men, then, paid in accordance with their attainments and skill? If not, is not society demanding from them labour on its behalf which it does not recompense with a fair equivalent? It pays the highly skilled labourer no better than the less skilled; is not this suicidal? For it takes away the principal motive which would animate a man in endeavouring to

render himself more worthy of being classed with the higher, and would make him willing to spend time, labour, and capital on the endeavour; moreover it tends to turn talent into other walks of life if the reasonable prospect of a fair recompense for labour in this be denied; and where the welfare of society depends so much on having high class medical men numerously distributed over the country, parsimony in giving them the fair and hardly-earned reward of their labour must prove most pernicious to the society that so acts. This is looking at the case from the point of view from which a wise and enlightened non-professional man would view it.

From a professional point of view we have to ask, how does it come to be the case that the high-class man is paid no better than the low-class; that the market value of his services is reduced to the same that can be obtained by men who have not spent one-fourth as much time, intellectual labour, or capital in qualifying themselves for a post precisely the same? To this question the answer must evidently be that those who have the appointment to these posts are as well satisfied with second-class and third-class labour as with first-class, and since there is an abundant supply of the former qualities on hands the first-class does not, to speak in market language, fetch its proper price; and since it does not it is, as we have said, diverted elsewhere, to the injury of society. If a dispensary becomes vacant, say, as very commonly, of 60 square miles in extent, having a population of 15,000, and without a midwife, and affording as earnings on the year's work when expenses are paid an income of £60 or £50 or perhaps no more than £40, 10, 15, or 20 candidates will apply for it; the man who shall obtain the appointment will no doubt be the best, or one of the two or three best, among the number; but is it not clearly useless for him to expect or ask for a remuneration suitable to the work demanded of him,

since the immediate answer will be that if he is dissatisfied they will not ask him to undertake it, since they can have their choice of a score of others to do it at that remuneration?

Surely there must be something wrong in the condition of a profession which has to submit to such under payment of hard working, well educated, and highly intellectual gentlemen. In England, similarly, as we have said, if a man does not consent to work at a dead loss he knows his place can be instantly filled by some other man to the injury of his private practice. Is this, then, the case in the Poor Law service only; or are the same results of excessive competition visible in other departments of practice? Let us consider the state of things in the Army Medical Department. Here we find 740 assistant surgeons on the list, and promotion going on for some years past at the average rate of 20 per annum, thus allowing a man to obtain surgeon's rank after 37 years service, while compulsory retirement takes place at the age of 55, that is to say after 33 years service if he enter at the early age of 22, this retirement being accompanied with a half-pay at the rate of ten shillings a day after a life's service, his highest full pay being thirteen shillings daily, or not quite £238 a year for a service of difficulty and danger involving many years banishment in extreme climates. We pass over as exceptional the cases in which after long service men have been placed on half-pay at the rate of five shillings a day, as per *Gazette* of 30th March, 1866, which contains two such instances, though even these exceptional cases cause a feeling of insecurity throughout the service. We pass over also such grievances as want of due consideration for the medical officer, refusal to accord true relative rank, and neglect of courtesy on the part of officials and combatants, as being grievances rather of a sentimental character; but we urge that when men comparatively good, for we must consider those to be

comparatively good who pass the practical examination for the army service, and when they, we say, accept such terms for a life's service as those above-mentioned it undoubtedly argues a pressure of competition of the most severe character in other departments of professional employment.

What then is the nature of this competition or pressure in private practice? First as regards what is known as club practice, a kind of employment much more common in England than in Ireland, but we must recollect that, owing to the great facilities for travelling and communication between the different kingdoms, the pressure must necessarily be pretty evenly diffused and nearly equal in all of them. We find, then, that, under the club system, workmen, skilled artisans, earning from £1 to £3 weekly, will subscribe 2s. 6d. per annum to a club, and for this sum will be able to find professional men who will undertake to attend them and their friends all the year round, supplying medicine as well as advice; we say, them and their friends, for the "member's friend" is a recognised institution in these clubs, and each member may bring to the practitioner's consulting room, for advice and medicine, as many friends as he pleases; we find also that the servants of noblemen and gentlemen, even the upper servants, are allowed to join these clubs, or other clubs for medical attendance, at the same rate of subscription; we find also that in some places a penny a week kept off an artisan's wages is considered to entitle him and his family to medical aid at general hospitals, and that medical men, though unpaid for their services thereat, will yet consent to give them to these hospitals, to the injury not only of their brethren, but of their own private emoluments, so intense is the competition for public notice; we do not now speak of hospitals for the poor, but for the wealthy artisan class; nor do we speak of clinical hospitals, where the students' fees and the

clinical experience and reputation form an ample reward for the services rendered, and for which we should never desire to see any salary accepted. We find clubs advertising for medical men, to devote their whole time to them, at salaries of £120 yearly, with a small unfurnished house, or a lower income than many of his artisan patients realize; and for this medicines and medical appliances have of course to be furnished as well as advice; and we find such clubs not only asking for their men, but obtaining them. Such being the case it is clearly useless for the medical officer of a club to refuse to work at such remuneration, since another man is always on the spot ready to supply his place; or even though all the practitioners of a town or district should combine to enforce reasonable remuneration, another man will at once appear on the scene, and reduce the remuneration to its former standard. This being the case we must expect to find the emoluments from, and remuneration for, strictly private practice pretty much on the same scale. We do not of course speak here of the consulting physician or surgeon, the man whose reputation is made, and who can of course name his own terms and yet keep his hands full, but of the ordinary practitioner. We know, then, as a matter which has fallen under our own observation, that it is a common thing to charge one shilling for advice, and give a bottle of medicine in addition, and this, not to humble labourers earning their pittance of a shilling a day, for of this we would not speak, but to skilled artisans whose wages might average from £2 to £3 a week. Not long ago we read, in one of the Medical Journals, of a town which contained five medical practitioners, not one of whom had an income of £100 a year, and where competition was so intense that some of those gentlemen were in the habit of charging sixpence for a visit or advice to all classes of society, that is all classes to which a practitioner of this stamp would

find entrance, for such a man must be greatly looked down upon by even the humbler classes of artisans. "Qualis tibi sis, talis aliis eris." The man who estimates his own services at sixpence will no doubt be considered by the public to value them at their true worth. But how can it have occurred that a fifth man, the last arrival of the number, should have chosen for his field of practice a town where four practitioners already found it so hard to earn a livelihood; how comes it that some one of the five did not select a better sphere on finding the pressure that existed in the locality referred to? We reply, evidently because other places also are overstocked; evidently because each knew that the difficulty, risk, and inconvenience of removal would not be counterbalanced by the chance of an amelioration in his financial concerns; and had such a move been made by any of them it is highly probable that some other young man just passed, perhaps with only a single qualification, yet prepared to practise in all branches, would have been ready to step into his place, and forthwith recommence the system of sixpenny fees. We urge the point, then, that in all branches of professional labour the overstock of labourers is excessive, and the pressure of competition consequently so intense that members of the profession are losing at once their self-respect and respect for each other. Is it not in a great degree to this sense of rivalry and competition, to this feeling that each man is taking the bread out of his neighbour's mouth, that we have to trace much of the ill-will, jealousy, and professional discourtesy which we so often unfortunately see prevail, and still oftener know to exist even where the external manifestation of it may be repressed?

The question for consideration now is, How can this state of things be amended; how can this unhealthy condition of the profession be removed? The interests of the public as well as of the profession de-

mand that some remedy be found; for it is self-evident that so long as high-class talent fails to find in the medical profession a recognition proportioned to its deserts so long will that talent employ itself in other and more favourable pursuits, and the ranks of medicine throughout the country be filled with second-class and third-class men, on whom the public, rich and poor very much alike, must be dependent for the skill that both alike so often need. We speak not of course of metropolitan cities, or even large towns, where talent can always command a fair and proportionate recognition, and where accordingly talent in abundance is found; but we speak of small towns and country villages, where, nevertheless, suffering and disease are as urgent as in the capital, and the poor, as human beings and our fellow-creatures, need skill in their treatment as much as the rich, and as social units, though of smaller account individually from this point of view, yet form, through their numbers, a class of quite as great national importance.

A consideration of the inevitable and necessary action of this law of political economy, that talent will not be found where it is not fairly recompensed, shows clearly that a mere combination among the medical men of a district to raise their scale of charges, and thereby earn for themselves a decent livelihood, however it might meet their special wants, would by no means meet those of the community. They would not thereby have added anything to their own skill or talent, nor have fitted themselves the better for the discharge of the duties they have undertaken on behalf of the community. An arbitrary elevation of the market price of labour is the very mistake committed by the trade-unions of the present day, and which in their case we see to be fraught with so much mischief not only to society at large, but even to themselves. Neither they nor we can with impunity set aside the great laws which, based

on the motives that actuate the individual, are known, when thus actuating individuals in large numbers, as the principles of political economy. One way or another the market will right itself. In the case of our profession this would be effected by means of a still greater rush, fees being universally and arbitrarily raised, into our already much overstocked ranks, and a proportionately smaller number of the larger fees would accrue to each practitioner, or, it might be, men would receive fewer fees, not being consulted on such trivial occasions as at present, while, the average of professional skill not being affected by this train of events, the interests of the public would not receive any commensurate advantage to compensate them for such larger sums as the profession, as a body, might receive from them. It is clear, therefore, that the arbitrary raising of the tariff of medical fees is not the true remedy for the evil we deplore. If applied locally it will produce a rush of practitioners to that particular locality; if applied generally it will result in a similar rush into the ranks of the profession, and the evil will be worse than ever.

We hope shortly to consider the question of medical fees in particular, that is, as regards individual cases; at present we desire to consider the question in general, and having, we hope, first shown that their present extremely low rate is the result of an overstocking of the profession, to consider the true mode of applying remedial measures. It is indeed impossible to apply to our profession, inasmuch as it is an open profession, any other rules than those which universal experience shows to hold in the case of all other examples of open market competition. It can make no possible difference whether the productions offered for public use are those of the toil of the hands or those of the toil of the brain; the same motives influence the consumer and the producer; the same laws regulate the transactions between them in

both cases. The consumer is influenced by the urgency of his need, and the resources of his purse; the producer by the difficulty of production and the remuneration to be obtained by accomplishing it. The law universally regulating the transactions as regards this remuneration to the producer is that the market price of every production varies directly as the demand and inversely as the supply. As regards the production brought into the market for public use by the members of our profession, the demand, from the nature of the case, is pretty nearly constant; the average of population remaining the same, the average of disease and accident, birth and death, will remain pretty constant also, at least under the same conditions. True, the population is rather on the increase in these kingdoms, but this is a special variation, and if not counterbalanced by improved hygienic conditions, it will form a disturbing element which, though strictly involving the same laws, will not enter into our present consideration, in which it is more convenient, for the sake of definition of ideas and clearness of conception and argument, to neglect minor aberrations, and to consider the population and surrounding conditions to be fixed and invariable; just as in discussing the motions of the planets we should consider their paths to be strictly elliptical, and neglect the effects produced either by their own satellites or by their mutual reactions. Minor variations then being assumed to neutralise each other, or being theoretically neglected, we may assert that the amount of disease, accident, and other emergencies requiring the employment of medical labour is uniform and constant; and this being the case, one of the elements of variation in the price of that labour, namely the market demand, ceases to be variable and becomes constant; and it is at once evident that all further variation depends henceforth and necessarily upon the other element, namely the market supply, in other words the overstocking, or

otherwise, of the profession, by which the amount of competition must necessarily be regulated. If the oversupply which at present exists, especially the supply of inferior professional labour, were by any means cut off, the remuneration for medical skill must at once and necessarily rise, and, moreover, rise, by hypothesis, without any consequent ugly rush into the profession. One very obvious result would indeed follow, namely, that the higher remuneration for medical labour would attract a higher class of talent into its ranks, higher on the average, for in exceptional cases we could have nothing higher than we have at present.

But this presumes that the method employed to cut off the supply shall be devised with that due regard to public welfare, and shall possess that amount of elasticity, which shall permit of this higher class of talent passing the barriers nevertheless. An arbitrary or rigid rule, such for example, as that only a certain number of candidates were to be admitted into the profession each year, were such a rule possible, or such a rule as that of a sister profession, that no man is to be admitted until there is a place vacant for him, and promised to him, would operate injuriously both on the public and on the profession. But there is no difficulty in pointing out the true mode of proceeding, the mode which shall benefit not only ourselves but the public, for this is a consideration that not only cannot be set aside, but is even one of paramount importance. The interests of the public are supreme; we are their servants; whatever benefit we seek for ourselves from them we must take care to repay by a proportionate benefit conferred upon them; we cannot honorably, or even with real and lasting profit, work for our own advantage, unless our endeavours are in such a direction as shall secure a similar and consequent advantage to the public; if we can ensure better service to them we may fairly demand a higher recognition of that service from

them; not otherwise; to act otherwise would be to adopt the principles of trade-strikes, and would be unworthy of the dignity of a learned and liberal profession, and indeed contrary to its true interests. But we find at once presenting itself to us the mode in which we can accomplish at the same time both objects, namely, the benefit of our profession, and a corresponding benefit to the public. For it appears from many considerations, and is indeed nearly universally admitted, that numbers of persons are pouring through the barriers of our profession who are grossly ignorant as regards general education, and, almost as a necessary consequence, thoroughly unsound in their professional knowledge and attainments. If anything were wanting distinctly to prove this assertion it would be found in the results of the examinations at the Army and Navy Boards; examinations at which the inferior class of recently passed men hardly venture to present themselves, and yet at which we find that rejections take place on account of an ignorance sometimes general, but much more frequently professional, of so astounding a character that nothing but the actual production of their double diplomas, as necessary previous to their admission to examination, could convince any person that they had really passed the examinations, not merely of one but of two licensing bodies. This is undoubtedly "fons et origo mali." What do these men do with themselves when they fail at these public Boards? What also do the many others do who were from the first to be classed as inferior to those who ventured to attempt the examinations of these Boards? They all enter on private practice by some means or other; probably at first as qualified assistants to general practitioners; or perhaps as general practitioners on their own account, furnished with a supply of phials, and a brass plate, "Decus et tutamen." It is evident that here we have the true cause of the overstocking of the

professional labour market, and of the consequent excessive depreciation of professional services. These men, fully qualified, will offer their services for anything, or even for nothing, and so undersell their more respectable and better qualified brethren with an undiscerning public. For what do the public know of medical qualifications; are they any judges of a man's real title to, or claims on, their confidence; does the M.D. of London carry with it any higher merit in their minds than the M.D. of Lambeth? How are we to hit this serious blot, to remedy this great defect? Evidently by requiring a higher class and character of professional attainment, a more thorough and practical knowledge of professional science and work at our examinations.

Will it be said that this is contrary to the interests of the various schools and teachers? We cannot think so; obviously the higher the standard to which the student is to be brought up the higher will be the fees which the teacher may fairly demand, and which the student will be willing to pay for being brought up to it. Evidently whatever be the fees demanded, whether for instruction or for licences, they will on such a system as this be a very valuable investment on the part of the student; for, according to well-known principles of political economy, it is the consumer who pays the whole cost of production, and the higher remuneration to be obtained throughout a life-time, by means of the exclusion of inferior men, will make it well worth the student's while to pay a little more for the instruction and the licences which shall entitle him to the public regard. It will be but an investment, an insurance premium paid by him for the purpose of protecting himself against unfair competition in after life.

It may be said that those thus rejected at the professional examinations will nevertheless obtain an entrance into practice as unqualified assistants to general practitioners, an anomalous and unrecognised class supplied

from the stock of rejected candidates, but who nevertheless pass among the public as practitioners, and, we regret to say, among many of the profession also, and who exercise a great influence in keeping down the estimate of, and remuneration for, professional services. But we urge that a thoroughly efficient preliminary examination would completely weed out this class, by excluding from the ranks of medical students all except those who should be possessed of such ability as would undoubtedly enable them at a future date to pass an effective and practical professional examination with credit. One not unimportant result to the profession, and perhaps to the public also, would undoubtedly result from an increased charge for medical education and licences, namely a certain amount of improvement in the social status and position of the individual members of the lower grades of the profession; which would at once carry with it an elevation of the social status of the profession itself as a body in the mind of the public. At present the small farmer, or petty shopkeeper, looks to the humbler grades of the profession as the means of making his son "a gentleman," but in the first place the youth, not having been brought up from his infancy in the intellectual atmosphere which pervades the homes of the gentry and upper professional classes, nor with that attention to education and mental development which is customary among them, is so much the less qualified for a profession which requires for the due discharge of its duties, as we have before remarked, the highest exercise of intellect of which the human mind is capable. And secondly, from want of early associations, instinctive home training, and that natural polish which is the result of constant contact with persons of polished mind and manners, the habits, manners, and tone of mind of such a young man cannot be such as are desirable for a profession which is rightly that of a gentleman, nor such as will naturally

afford him a passport to the society with which it is desirable that the members of a learned profession should associate. The presence in the profession of many persons of the class we speak of must necessarily have a tendency to lower the social status and public estimate of the whole body; and it might perhaps be found that a great deal of the want of mutual courtesy and gentlemanly treatment of each other, which is so often complained of by individual members of our profession, might be avoided, if the ranks of the profession were more uniformly recruited from classes with whom courtesy and gentlemanly conduct are habitual and instinctive. We are far from intending to assert that mere amplitude of means is invariably associated with a polish of manners or a gentlemanly tone of mind; but considering things on the average, as theoretically we are under the necessity of doing, we think it may be affirmed that the associations of persons of better means than those of the small farmer and trader class, are, as a rule, more likely to develope these qualities than are those of the classes specified.

We have now to endeavour to investigate a much more delicate question, to analyse a more difficult problem, to devise a less easily found treatment for a disease more deeply seated, and which more easily baffles and eludes our grasp. Moreover we have to touch the more vital portions of the professional body corporate; to probe more deeply, and into a more sensitive part. May we hope to be credited with an earnest desire to discover what is amiss, and that for the purpose of endeavouring to rectify it? This much at least we may hope that wherever the disease is less serious there our handling shall be the less seriously felt. We speak metaphorically, but, metaphor apart, we feel that we now approach the most delicate and difficult part of the task which has been assigned to us by the eminent corporation entrusted with the administration

of the great Carmichael's wishes; this is the reconciling, where they may seem to be at variance, of the interests of the profession at large with those of the licensing bodies taken as a collective class. We could scarcely venture to express our sentiments freely on this subject did we not feel, first, that the interests of the public also are involved, and will be admitted to be paramount, as well over those of the corporations as over those of the profession; secondly, that in truth the corporate bodies do not all take common ground, that the interests of a certain number of them are identical with those of the profession at large, and of the public, and this ever more and more as the individual corporation is higher in the scale, higher in professional eminence, reputation, and distinction; so much so that in maintaining the cause of the profession and the public we feel that we are in truth upholding the interests of the higher professional corporations as against the lower.

It is not for us to speak of the high reputation of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland; but we believe that there is no corporation whose interests suffer more at the hands of certain other corporations in consequence of the existence of the evils which we now desire to trace out, and, if possible, to suggest a remedy for; we beg therefore a fair hearing for our views, our arguments, and our suggestions.

The question which we have to investigate is this; how do men so utterly unqualified, say, as those referred to by Dr. E. A. Parkes in his celebrated speech before the Medical Council, find their way across the barriers erected by the State for the express purpose of keeping unqualified men out of the medical profession? The State, appreciating, we presume, the importance to the national welfare of having highly educated and well skilled medical men to labour on behalf of the public, has chartered certain bodies in each division of the

empire for the express purpose of protecting the public interests by excluding from the profession all such as should not be found so qualified. This, we maintain, is the true view to take of the functions of the licensing bodies. Be the mode of expressing it what it may their functions are not so much to provide men as to test them, not so much to qualify as to disqualify, not so much to admit as to exclude. This is the essential element in the idea of an examining body, the right, and with the right the duty, of excluding from the profession persons not properly qualified to belong to it. Admission follows as a matter of course where there are no reasonable grounds for the exclusion of the applicant. And this right of exclusion is not only so clearly seen but so distinctly enforced that ignorance of professional science and want of professional skill are not made the only grounds of exclusion ; age is invariably a question, and a practical one ; morals are also a question, though, for obvious reasons, one which cannot be pressed beyond matters which fall under the cognisance and penalty of the law ; but the right to exclude on such grounds is held. The point we wish to press is that any right of exclusion held by charter from the State carries with it also a duty to the State, that namely of exercising this right wherever reasonable grounds for so doing exist, and in particular where ignorance and want of skill constitute the said grounds. This is the counterpart of the Corporation privileges, for privilege always carries duty along with it as the *quid pro quo*, the tenure by which it is held. No licensing body, therefore, has a right to argue that the qualification bestowed by it does not profess to be of the same professional rank as that bestowed by some other body, and therefore that the same extent of education, or strictness of examination, is not to be asked of candidates for its licence as may fairly be expected of candidates for some licence of higher grade ; we do not of course suppose any corporation arguing

thus in terms, but by implication, in the education it requires or the examination it enforces. The question which each corporation is bound to ask is as follows, "This licence carries with it a qualification and right to practise medicine; is the candidate for it qualified, then, to practise with proper benefit and due safety to the public?" This is the question the State and the public expect to be asked; the answer is of course left to the decision of the examining body. It cannot, however, be denied or overlooked that in too many instances, as tested by the public-service examinations subsequently, this decision has been in the affirmative when it ought to have been in the negative, and that to the detriment of the public, and the great injury, both in honour and emolument, of the profession. How comes it, now, that these candidates, candidates such as those commented on by Dr. Parkes, have been allowed to pass, not one board merely, but in all cases two? We must answer that the State, as seems to us, has placed the licensing corporations under unfair conditions in the discharge of their duty towards it; for, the emoluments of each corporation being dependent on the fees received for licences, such body, in rejecting a candidate, was held bound to inflict injury on itself for the sake of benefiting the public. This we consider was a trial of fidelity to the public interests which ought not to have been imposed on any licensing body; and its removal must constitute, we conceive, the essential feature of any future measure which may have for its object the benefit of the public by the exclusion from the profession of all except thoroughly qualified men, or the benefit of the profession through the limitation of competition by means of the same course of action.

For what is the case at present? A corporation of high standing, jealous for the honour of its licence, desirous of honourably discharging its duties to the

public, pronounces a man unfit to hold its diploma because it considers him unfit to practise with safety to the public. What then? The disappointed candidate takes his journey next day a distance of a few hundred miles, to some ancient seat of mediæval lore, or some well-known locality famed for the small proportion of candidates rejected within its walls, (strange to observe how uniformly in one direction these candidates travel,) and within a week's time he returns with a qualification to practise the very branch of the profession which, a week previously, he was pronounced by a competent Board to be unqualified for. The examination papers are produced, and are perfectly *en regle*, the questions are fair, and of average difficulty, and fully sufficient to test the candidate's knowledge; the examiners also were men of undoubted ability; but—there is nothing to show the style of the answers, nor what percentage of marks was considered sufficient to save the candidate from rejection. Now what are the obvious results of this on the first-mentioned College? They have honestly endeavoured to do their duty by the public, and in vain; their sincerity in the discharge of this duty, the conscientiousness of their opinion that the candidate was not fit to practise with safety to the public, has been testified by the fact that they have foregone a considerable sum in fees, to their own immediate disadvantage, rather than fall short in their duty to the public; and yet the public are not one whit the better for this self-sacrifice; for here is the candidate let loose to practise on them with full qualifications, and the only sufferer in the matter has been the too strict and conscientious licensing corporation. The next time, of course, since the candidate is sure to get into the profession by some nook or cranny, they will be a little less strict, they will accept a somewhat inferior style of answers, and pass on a somewhat smaller percentage of marks; if an atrocious blunder is being committed in the vivâ voce they

will more willingly help the candidate with a leading question which shall enable him to see danger a-head and change his tack, they will more readily allow him to recall his uttered "no" and substitute "yes" for it when the expression on the examiner's face has conveyed an intimation that the latter answer would have been nearer the truth; they will with greater facility hesitate and demur before setting down an answer as final, and allow the candidate to hedge it by a gradual deviation and explanation until at last he expresses the precise opposite of what he said at first. And why should they not? If they do not yield thus some other board will, and they will be the losers without the public or the profession being the gainers. Such a conciliatory course, however, by no means suits the wishes or interests of the other examining board; why, if this goes on they shall no longer have any stray wandering candidate coming to them with his cheque in his pocket, transferable on condition of their re-gilding his tarnished reputation. Board A. has relaxed a little of its accustomed strictness to keep candidates from travelling in other directions if they can possibly be passed at home; Board B. must therefore come down a little lower to accommodate those who even still cannot possibly be passed at home, and allure to the arms of a more tender foster-nurse those whom their own Alma Mater still hesitat s to embrace. And thus the rival institutions alternately underbid each other, and thus the sale of diplomas goes on, like that of the valuables at a Scotch roup, the salesmaster still lowering and lowering his terms till some one is sure to purchase at the last, a practice no doubt somewhat at variance with English and Irish ideas and method of procedure on similar occasions, but apparently the mode of disposal which commends itself to the mind of the canny Scot, as no doubt that which in the long run best fills his coffers, and we ought not to be surprised if a principle thus in-

grained in the national mind, from each man's earliest youth, may perhaps occasionally make its workings manifest in places and on occasions where we might hardly have expected it, but where, nevertheless, if we did not recognise its operation we might be at a loss to account for the phenomena presented to view.

Thus then it is that the standard of admission to the profession comes down by degrees to the low point at which we now confessedly find it; thus it is that the man of no education nevertheless thinks he may make a fair start as a medical student and ultimately find himself constituted a gentleman by education in virtue of his possession of a general practitioner's qualification; thus it is that the professional ranks come to be overstocked with an inferior class of practitioners, willing to set their services at any remuneration in salaried appointments, and compelled for the sake of bread to undersell their brethren as far as possible in private practice; thus it is that the status of the profession is lowered, and that its average class of members can frequently hardly find bread to put into their mouths; thus it is that the public suffer in consequence of being obliged to submit to the medical treatment of men of inferior class, most of those of higher education and intellectual ability being deterred from entering an overstocked, and therefore underpaid, profession.

The consideration of a remedy for this state of things must now occupy us for a little. It may be supposed that to make the candidate's fees unreturnable in case of rejection, thus saving the corporation any loss consequent on such rejection, might be a sufficient and satisfactory remedy. But although we undoubtedly consider that a certain fee ought to be paid for examinations as such, which should therefore of course be unreturnable, yet to substitute an unreturnable examination fee of equal amount with, and in the place of, the licence fees would utterly fail of its object as regards

either the benefit of the public, the elevation of the profession, or the protection of the emoluments and interests of the corporation. For it is clear that, however willing a badly-prepared candidate may be to risk a doubtful reputation in the endeavour to "fluke" through his examination, and obtain a high-class diploma, yet when he has to risk not only the chance of "a toss," which he cares very little for, but also the sum of, it may be, £25, which he does care very much for, he will assuredly not attempt the higher examination at all, but seek out at once the very lowest Board he can find; and since the reputation of being the Board before which a man can most easily get through will in this case be the attraction, and will be worth so many additional fees per annum, it is easy to see that the underbidding process will go on even more actively than ever, and the higher class of Colleges suffer still more for their conscientiousness. Unquestionably the very first and most essential step to be taken for the amendment of the present most unsatisfactory state of things is to ensure that no corporation shall suffer loss as a result of its faithful discharge, on behalf of the public, of the duties which the public has entrusted to it.

What would be thought in the world of business of contracts for service to be rendered which should be so peculiarly contrived that every instance of faithful discharge of the service should necessarily be attended with direct pecuniary loss to him who discharged it? Yet this is actually the condition in which the different medical licensing corporations are at present placed with regard to the public they serve. It seems to us that the corporations must, one and all, be extricated from this false position, and placed on a surer and more independent footing. The question is, for whose benefit do the licensing corporations exist, for that of the students or that of the public? If for that of the students, by all means let them continue to be dependent on the

favour of the students for their emoluments; but if for the benefit of the public, and if it is intended, not that the students shall control their examinations, but that their examinations shall control the students, not that they shall be dependent on the candidates, but that the candidates shall be dependent on them, then it is in the first place necessary that pecuniary relations between them and the candidates shall cease, that the candidates shall no longer be their paymasters, for it cannot but be that both men and corporations should to a certain extent feel themselves dependent on those from whom their emoluments are derived, and this is not a position or relation suitable to the dignity of a licensing corporation to have to maintain as regards its students, the candidates for its licences. In one word the emoluments of the Colleges ought to be derived from fixed endowments independent of the candidate, and, moreover, fixed at such an amount as that the Colleges should suffer no loss in consequence of the change. They have vested interests; they will still have duties to discharge on the public behalf no less arduous and important than at present; it is not for their sakes but for that of the public that the change is desirable; undoubtedly should such a change be made, it ought to be made in such a way as that they should not be the losers. They have long been the losers for their discharge of their duty to the public; if the interests of the latter can be more effectually cared for by means of such a change, the Colleges must not still be the losers as the result of that change.

Such an endowment as the following might perhaps be thought satisfactory by the Colleges; we offer the idea merely as a suggestion; namely, tha each College should receive annually such a sum as should amount to the annual average of the fees received by it from students during the ten years now last past; we say, from students, meaning thereby from persons

not already in possession of a licence qualifying them for the same branch of practice as that for which the licence of the particular College in question qualifies them; thus it would only be the fees of entrants into the profession for which compensation would be made in accordance with such a proposal; for those persons already in possession of their qualifications to practice, double as we think these ought to be, it would still be open to them to proceed to higher degrees, fellowships, or ad eundem qualifications, by an arrangement between the Colleges and themselves as at present. The effect on the profession at large of such an arrangement as that here proposed must be very obvious; the Boards of the lowest class would forthwith raise their standard somewhat, if for no other reason at least to prove to the world that they were better than they had been thought, to clear themselves from imputation and redeem the character of their licence; those Boards which had all along desired a higher standard, but had been obliged to succumb to the force of circumstances, would forthwith find it open to them to raise the character of their examinations to a satisfactory point; inferior men would now be denied entrance into the profession; doubtless before long the names of rejected candidates would be furnished by the Boards to each other, and thus a man rejected before one set of examiners would certainly not find his chance of passing before another set improved. The number of men in the profession would be sensibly diminished, and that by the exclusion of none but the inferior class; the extreme pressure of competition would ere long be reduced; the candidate for employment would no longer come before the public as a suppliant, but as a negotiator; the public esteem and regard accorded to him would be higher; a higher average of talent and social status would be attracted to the profession by its more satisfactory rewards; by higher talent, by more thorough knowledge, and

more perfect skill, the public would be better served; should it become necessary for them to pay a little additional for such service, it would undoubtedly be well spent money; but probably as individuals they would not have to pay more, for more constant employment would afford a sufficient recompense to higher talent and skill without any augmentation in individual charges. It seems to us that in the fixed endowment of each and all of the Colleges and Corporations we strike the key-note of all future improvement of, and advantage to, both the profession, and the public as regards professional services.

The question whence the funds for such endowments ought to be drawn remains for practical consideration. Such a proposal as that they should be drawn at once and directly from the national exchequer would of course be both impracticable and ridiculous. While suggesting a fixed endowment for the Colleges we would have no idea of proposing that the student should be excused payment for the privilege he so much covets of presenting himself before the public as an authorised practitioner, and that his licence should be granted "stipendio condonato;" and again, although we, as belonging to the profession, certainly urge, and truly urge, that the change we propose would be one of great importance to the public, and that it would be fair that they should pay for it, yet no doubt the non-professional public would forthwith reply to us, and truly reply, that the change would be of still greater and more immediate importance to the professional body, and that it would undoubtedly be fair and reasonable that they should bear the burden of it. While maintaining our own view that the public ought to bear the cost we are yet perfectly willingly to concede the demand which would thus undoubtedly be made by them, that the charges should be borne, in appearance at least, by the profession; for in truth the question is one of those known to political

economists as questions regarding the "incidence of taxation," in analysing and answering which it is very often found that the party who actually hands over the money to the tax-gatherer, and hands it over as being paid by himself, is by no means the party out of whose pocket it really comes. Thus, for instance, who could for a moment suppose that when the distiller pays the excise duty on the spirit which he manufactures, the sum so handed over to the Exchequer comes out of his own pocket? Of course he reimburses himself by an additional charge to the consumer, with interest for the advance of the sum by himself. Similarly any charge paid by medical students for their admission into the profession comes out of their pockets in appearance only, being replaced by a slight corresponding rise in the value of their services as medical men during life, which rise is the direct result of the limitation of competition, however slight in degree, caused by the barrier of the licence fees; for the principle of political economy, that the consumer pays the whole cost of production, holds good no matter what the article may be which is produced for the use or benefit of the public. We shall not therefore offer any objection to the view which must undoubtedly be taken by the public on such a question as this, that any additional charges necessary to make up the annual endowment payable to the different Colleges must be borne by the candidates for entrance into the medical profession in the shape of increased charges for their examinations or diplomas. Indeed one good result would be gained by the profession in consequence of these charges being paid in the first place by the candidates for entrance into the profession, namely, that in proportion as somewhat more capital is required to be thus paid in advance by the candidate, for what we have termed, in accordance with commercial usage, the "cost of production" of the medical practitioner, in the same proportion may we expect that a slightly better class of

men as regards social status and position will be found to enter the profession, and this to the evident advantage of the professional body as regards its general social status and position, and the estimation in which, as a body, it will be held by the public.

The question remains, To whom ought these fees to be paid? Obviously to some central and national office; and, being paid under the name of fees for examinations and licences, obviously to some body having some superintendence of such examinations, and some control over such licences. We have only to name the General Medical Council, itself chiefly composed of the representatives of the different licensing corporations, to ensure universal assent to the assertion of its fitness for the discharge of this function. It would make but little difference whether such a function were assumed by the Council in virtue of powers entrusted to it by an Act of Parliament for that purpose, or as the result of an agreement to that effect entered into by the different licensing bodies which send representatives to its council chamber; the benefit which, as seems to us, must result both to the profession and the public from the course we propose, would be equally attained in either way. Were such a scheme adopted there would be one or two practical questions which the Council would have to decide; such as whether the same sum should be charged to each candidate, who should then have a right, as far as payment of fees might entitle him to it, to take any two qualifications he might prefer, and for which the licensing Boards he might select should pronounce him qualified; or whether he should name to the Council the Boards before which he might wish to appear, and pay a different sum for each, proportioned to the present tariff of each. Of these two methods we should incline to the first, as tending more towards uniformity, and being more easily manageable. It is scarcely necessary to observe that our present proposal is perfectly consis-

tent with that which we made above that certain branches of the medical examinations should be given in charge to certain particular Boards as a matter of private agreement between the corporations themselves, the one proposal referring to the payment of fees only, and the other to the examination test only. It is evident that on a fixed endowment scheme each corporation ought to be bound to hold at least two examinations yearly; but as regards the delegation to each other of the examinations in different parts of the complete medical course, and the acceptance of each other's certificates of the candidates qualifications in the same, this would evidently be a matter of private agreement between the Colleges, though an agreement probably more readily to be arrived at on a fixed endowment scheme than on any other. As a matter of practical detail it might be desirable that a form of circular receipt should be used by the Council, to be produced before each board previous to the admission of the candidate to examination, and on which might be endorsed the fact of the candidate's passing, with the date; perhaps it might be found advisable also to mark on it the fact of his rejection should such be the result of his examination, such a notification evidently constituting the strongest of all inducements to him to present himself before the same board on his second attempt.

The Colleges might consider it advisable mutually to agree that their diplomas should be lodged for the successful candidates at the Branch registrar's office, to be presented to each as soon as he should have had two such, a medical and a surgical, lodged in his name. As regards the class of these licences; there is no difficulty with respect to the surgical qualification; every candidate without exception ought to be required to present one, as a proof of professional knowledge, leaving it nevertheless altogether to his own choice whether he should practise surgery or no; the medical licences

ought, we conceive, to be divided into two classes, and two only, from whatsoever corporations obtained, that namely of the general practitioner, and that of the physician, the former permitting, and the latter strictly forbidding, charging for medicines; this is the only difference recognised by society, or indeed capable of being recognised by it; the man who, though holding an M.D. degree from some university, yet charges his patients for his medicines, or even keeps open shop, nay more the man who does so, in defiance of rules and engagements, while holding the Licence of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, for such we have known, this man has no right to call himself by the professional title of a physician, nor can he expect to take the social and conventional rank and status of a physician in society; on the other hand where gentlemen holding no other medical licence than that of the English Apothecaries' Society refuse, as they do in the town of Liverpool, to keep open shop or even to supply their patients with medicines, it is difficult to say in what respect socially they differ from the members of the College of Physicians, except perhaps in a certain nominal social status attaching to the latter; we speak not now of professional rank of course. We unquestionably consider that all university degrees ought to carry with them a prohibition to charge for medicines similar to that of the physician's licence.

We think that the proposal we have made above, of a fixed endowment payable to each Corporation by a body constituted by the State, but composed of the representatives of these very Corporations, would be infinitely preferable to the proposal made in some quarters, and even very high quarters, that one Central Government licensing board should henceforth alone exist. In the first place, such a proposal ignores the vested interests and legal charters of the present corporations, their ancient honors, high prestige and dignity of insti-

tution; these corporations have been entrusted by the State with a definite public function, and we maintain that, in so far as they were not checked by the peculiar fault above pointed out in the nature of their sources of emolument, they have done their duty well, honorably, with benefit to the public, and frequently, in consequence of that fault, at heavy loss to themselves; and if this source of injury to themselves be removed we believe that neither the profession nor the public will have anything to complain of for the future. Again we believe that a single licensing body would not possess that elasticity, and that capability of adapting itself to circumstances, whether those of changing times, or of the different conditions of the three kingdoms, which the present Colleges possess. We believe that it would not manifest that regard for the necessities of the profession or of the public which is the natural result of competition; and we think that the slur which would be cast upon the licences, one and all, held by the present members of the profession would not be endured by them. Such an institution would be a gigantic monopoly, and as such altogether opposed to the spirit of the age, and, as is well known, to the interests of the public. We advocate such a restriction merely of professional competition as shall ensure a corresponding advantage to the public by making the rewards of the profession such as shall attract a higher average class of men, intellectually and educationally, to enter its ranks; and this we conceive would be efficiently carried out on the fixed endowment scheme which we propose; but on a single corporation scheme, if its emoluments were derived from fixed endowments we should risk such a limitation of licences that the wants of the public should fail to be supplied, as in the days when a monopoly was held by the College of Physicians of London, and on the other hand if this Central Corporation were supported, as those now in existence are,

by the fees received for its licences, we should have no guarantee against such a flooding of the profession as should make matters even worse than at present. Such a proposal, indeed, we should scarcely think deserving of notice were it not an indication of the direction in which the tide of the professional and public thought of the kingdom is setting, and did it not convey a hint that some method must be devised which shall on the one hand preserve intact the rights, the dignity, the emoluments, of the present corporations, and yet, on the other hand, shall be capable of acceptance by the profession and the public as satisfactory to their wishes and in accordance with their interests.

We are prepared of course to hear it said that just in proportion as we succeed in raising the standard of professional attainment, in the same proportion will the army of unlicensed and ignorant practitioners increase and multiply, to the injury of the public. To this we reply; First, that the number of quacks preying on the public does not depend on the number of professional men in the community, but on the public demand for quacks, for unlicensed practitioners as such, represented of course by the amount of emoluments to be derived by such persons from an ignorant or a credulous public. Secondly, that want of confidence in duly qualified practitioners is much more the cause of the public resorting to unlicensed persons than might be supposed; and this want of confidence can best be dispelled by a high professional, and not only so, but by a high general, education. If indeed we could so far educate the public that they should be able to appreciate the difficulty, the depth and the breadth of medical studies, all difficulty on this score would be removed, for the quack would disappear from society in consequence of the complete withdrawal of public confidence from him; Othello's occupation would be gone. Meantime we conceive that this end can best be attained by increasing the public respect for,

and confidence in, the licensed practitioner; and this, after all, is our only legitimate concern, that our profession may be worthy of the confidence of the public, leaving it to them to express their appreciation of such worth, or not, according to their own knowledge or ignorance, their own intellectual capacity or mental obtuseness.

Thirdly, we reply that the public appointments of the Army, Navy, and Poor Law services can never be thrown open to unlicensed persons.

Fourthly, that individual liberty of action can be very little restrained in a really free country like England.

Fifthly, that, nevertheless, we would hope that a legislative enactment might be passed, which without absolutely restraining the right of the individual to consult, or the quack to treat, whom he pleased, might yet so far reduce the emoluments of the latter in an indirect manner as to make it hardly worth his while, at least in nine cases out of ten, to keep his shop open any longer. The form which such an enactment must assume seems to us to be at once suggested by the ordinary source of the emoluments of the unlicensed practitioner; he makes nine-tenths of his gains by the sale of his drugs and nostrums, very little by prescriptions; a prescription would divulge his pretended secrets; this would not suit his card. Now we do not consider it to be any un-English circumscription of individual liberty to forbid a man to sell ardent spirits unless he holds a magistrates' licence from the Bench of Quarter Sessions, and for the obtaining of this licence recommendations are required; we can scarcely see why an analogous measure should not be feasible in the case of medicines, the injudicious use of which is so much more dangerous than the injudicious use of alcohol. We cannot see why a legislative measure should not be passed of somewhat wider scope than the recent Sale of Poisons bill; what is a Poison? Is the term capable of definition? Aconite, Arsenic,

Opium are Poisons; well then is Ipecacuanha not a poison if taken in sufficiently large doses? Are Hyoscyamus, Belladonna, Calomel, Iodide of Potassium, not poisons, because a somewhat larger dose of each is necessary to produce dangerous symptoms? We consider that the term "poison" is relative merely, not absolute, and that a bill might be passed, with great advantage to the public, forbidding the sale of all medicines, or preparations professing to be medicinal, with the exception of certain named drugs of common use, such as Castor Oil, Epsom Salts, &c., by any persons not being on the Medical or on the Pharmaceutical Register, unless such persons shall have obtained a licence for such sale from the Quarter Sessions Bench of Magistrates, on the recommendation of two medical practitioners resident within, say five miles, of the abode or place of business of the applicant. We believe that such an enactment would be feasible, and that it would be the death-blow to unqualified practice, while it would yet leave nearly untouched the liberty of every man as regarding whom he should consult; for it would still be open to the quack to write his prescription if asked so to do; and the ignorant portion of the public who might prefer the advice of an ignorant pretender to that of a well-instructed medical man, would nevertheless have the skill and sense of the qualified compounder, be he apothecary or chemist, placed between them and harm.

A great deal has been written and said about the amendment of the famous 40th clause of the Medical Act. We may observe that no amendment of it can extinguish by force of law the practice of unqualified persons, and further, that to attempt to do so would be an unwarrantable attempt at interference with the liberty of the subject. The object of the Medical Act as regards registration is simply to afford the public the means of distinguishing between the qualified and the unqualified practitioner; not to force on them the ser-

vices of the former, or to annihilate the latter. If a man is not on the Register, and you do not know that he is a qualified practitioner, you are warranted in concluding that he is not so qualified, and in selecting some other adviser; but surely, if, qualified or not, he is the man you wish to consult, nobody has a right to say you shall not do so, or that he shall not give you the benefit of his skill, such as it may be, or that he shall not receive payment for the same. Let us influence persons by all means in our power to consult qualified rather than unqualified men, but should they decline to be swayed by our arguments let us not use compulsion.

It is evident also that to compel a qualified man to register his qualifications would be an unwarrantable exercise of authority; the Register does not confer the right to practise, that is the function of the licensing body; it simply records the right; to say that a man may not practise on his licence unless it is recorded is to impugn the functions and qualifications of the licensing bodies. The recording of the qualification confers certain privileges, such as the holding of certain appointments, the recovery of fees, &c.; if a man chooses to forego such privileges it is an unwarrantable interference with him to compel him to register his qualifications; no doubt some persons who do not know him may consider him to be unqualified, when, wishing to know if they may safely consult him, they fail to find his name on the Register, but that is a matter which concerns no person but himself. Further, to forbid a man to call himself what he is, as the clause may be construed to do as it at present stands, is worse than unwarrantable, we may call it impossible, we do not believe that any Legislature has either the right or even the power of so doing.

If we were to propose any change in the clause as it at present stands it would rather be to change the words

"that he is registered under this Act" to the words "that he is a qualified practitioner" interpreting the term "qualified practitioner" by section xxxiv as meaning "a person who has received a licence to practise from some Corporation legally entitled to grant the same."

Before leaving what we may call the politics of the profession we must notice a movement lately set on foot for the representation of the registered practitioner, as such, on the General Medical Council, a movement supported by nearly the entire Medical Press, by a section of the British Medical Association, by the Irish Medical Association, and by a special Association recently organised for that express purpose. In the presence of such evidence as this we must admit that the profession seems to attach considerable importance to this proposition, and we are accordingly bound to give it due consideration, and to inquire what the effect of the measure, if it were carried, would probably be upon the profession, the Corporations and the public. Of these we must persist in regarding the latter not only as the most important, but as being the body for the sole benefit of which the General Medical Council was instituted by the State. We cannot believe that either the Government or the Legislature consider the interests of the medical profession of such importance as to pass special enactments for our benefit; indeed the tendency of both is very much to under-rate the social value and importance of our body, and very much to under-estimate the benefits which would accrue to society from a due recognition of our services.

We hold therefore that for the benefit of the public only was the Act of 1858 passed, and the General Medical Council established. And we consider that these measures were adopted for the express purpose of securing for the public medical attendants of such qualifications and attainments that confidence might be

placed in their judgment, and the highest possible amount of benefit be derived from their skill.

That the General Medical Council has rendered important services in this respect, and has caused considerable progress to be made in this direction, there can be no manner of doubt; that all that is necessary either for the safety of the public, or the honour of the profession, has not yet been accomplished is nevertheless beyond question, being clearly proved, as beforesaid, by the statements made by Dr. E. A. Parkes, before the Council, regarding the deficiency in professional and general knowledge exhibited at examination by divers doubly qualified persons who were candidates for commissions in the Public Services.

The question therefore as regards the public is, will the representation of the registered practitioner on the General Medical Council tend to secure such more thorough general and professional attainments, knowledge and skill as their interests require? Now it cannot be doubted that, although this is the really important question after all, yet it will certainly present itself to the minds both of the members of the profession who shall elect their representatives, and to the representatives who shall be elected, in a manner only incidental and secondary. The public consult their own interests only, in taking measures to benefit the profession; it would be contrary to human nature to suppose that the members of the profession would do otherwise; they will undoubtedly consult their own interests primarily, and those of the public only as incidentally affected by the measures calculated to benefit their own body. Our next question therefore must be whether the interests of the profession coincide with the interests of the public in this respect. The latter by universal consent require highly educated and thoroughly skilled medical attendants; to the profession this is a minor question except for the honour and status of the

entire body; but it is imperatively their interest that competition shall be limited to such a degree as that they shall be able to obtain a fair recompense for their services whether to public or social bodies or to private individuals; this is unquestionably the consideration which will instinctively sway the minds of the individual electors of the profession should the proposed measures become law; this is undoubtedly the idea which will be the leading star of their representatives, themselves, no doubt, men essentially practitioners, when they take their seats at the Council Board should this ever come to pass. We have shown, we hope successfully, that no arbitrary raising of the terms of medical service, such as is practised in their respective trades by the trade-unions of England, can have any permanent effect in improving the remuneration, or raising the status of medical men, however generally adopted in the profession. And we believe that this view of the case will without hesitation be adopted by the members of the profession, when they come, as previous to such an election they must come, to look at the matter on general grounds, and to consider general principles. Much more, we believe, will it be the view taken by those who shall be elected representatives, and who will feel themselves bound, by the responsible position they will have been called to fill, to take the widest possible views, to act on the most general principles, and to give an important share of their thoughts and attention to arriving at such principles, and devising measures in accordance with the conclusions to which these principles must lead them.

We believe therefore that the invariable requirement of the members of the profession from the candidates for their suffrages, the invariable condition of their support for the high office of member of the General Council, will be that they shall be prepared to demand and enforce such an elevation of general and professional

education amongst candidates for the profession as shall ensure that no person shall be permitted to enter within its ranks, or to engage in competition with its members, who shall not be fully qualified and competent so to do. We believe that this improvement of the educational status of the profession will be the leading idea which will be present to the minds of the representatives of the registered practitioners when they join the Supreme Legislative body of the profession should that time ever arrive. But this is the very result which, as we have said, the interests of the public emphatically demand; this is admittedly the very purpose to effect which the Medical Council was instituted by the State. We are driven therefore to the conclusion that the interests of the profession are identical with those of the public in this matter, and that, in so far as the representatives of the registered practitioners carry weight in the Council, in so far will their influence be for the benefit of the public, and tend to the more perfect carrying out and accomplishing of the great State ends for which the Council was established, though we admit that such a direction of their influence will only be incidental, and as a consequence necessarily following from their seeking after a totally different object, namely, the benefit, in a legitimate manner, of their own body.

It has been remarked by an eminent writer lately departed from amongst us, who was at once orator, philosopher, and historian, "that no ordinary misfortune, nor ordinary misgovernment, will do so much to make a nation wretched, as the constant effort of every man to better himself will do to make a nation prosperous." The maxim is evidently no less true as regards the relation which the endeavour of classes after their own welfare has to the welfare of a nation than as regards that which the endeavour of individuals after the same object has thereto, the effort of the class, indeed, only representing the aggregate of the efforts of a large number of

individuals; the proviso is necessary, indeed, both as regards an individual and a class, that these efforts be made in accordance with correct principles of social fellowship and political economy; the individual must seek his own welfare as the recompense due him in return for his honestly seeking the welfare of others; the class must not attempt, as is too often done in the present day by those who have no knowledge of the principles of political economy, nor correct judgment regarding their own true interests, to put an arbitrary value upon the services they render to society; but in the endeavour to benefit themselves by raising as far as possible the standard of their own attainments, knowledge, and skill, to be employed in the service of the public, they are evidently benefiting the public not only to the extent of such higher service, but, as the author quoted lays it down, by the benefit they do to their own little portion of society, their own class and body, as will be evident when we consider the benefit and gain which would be manifest in society if every other class were to make similar and successful exertions for their own welfare, premising as before that these exertions should be made after a similar manner, that is to say that the class should not benefit itself at the expense of society, but in such a direction and after such a mode as that society should reap the benefit of higher, better, more perfect, more skilful, more earnest service pari passu with, and as a consequence of, the movement of the class in the direction of its own interests. We hold, therefore, that in thus seeking its own welfare our profession will be using its best efforts, in a two-fold manner, for the benefit of society at large.

The question still remains, Will the interests of the Corporations be served by the representation of the registered practitioner on the Medical Council should such a measure be carried? We have already shown that we consider the interest of the Corporations to be fixity of

endowment to amounts not less than the averages of their present variable incomes respectively, rather than emoluments derived from a precarious source of supply, emoluments at present rather tending to decrease than to augment, as the present raising of the standard of requirement is necessarily attended with some slight diminution of the number of candidates for the profession, and likely for the future not only to suffer farther from the operation of this cause, but also liable, in the case of any particular College to further variations according as the standard is still kept down by some recusant or tardily moving Corporation. It is evidently of no avail to reply that an increase in the charges for its licence can be made by any College to meet a falling-off in the number of candidates for the same; this could indeed be done by the General Council on a fixed endowment scheme such as we have proposed, since the Council would then receive all payments on account of diplomas; but were such a move to be attempted by any individual College the effect would evidently be to produce a compensating reduction by reason of a still smaller number of applications for its licence. Clearly the fixed endowment scheme is the only one by which the interests of the Colleges can be protected in the rush that is evidently about to be made, the battle that is evidently about to be excited, by the profession on behalf of its own interests; and not only so, but also, to our mind, it is clearly preferable to the present system as regards the interests of the Colleges considered in themselves; which of us would not prefer a fixed income of definite amount to a floating one, averaging no more, but liable to the uncertainty of annual change and variation, and for the future, in all probability, likely to diminish? And yet so distinctly would such a fixed endowment scheme tend to uniformity of educational requirements, and that on an ascending scale rather than on a descending one such as we find at present, so distinctly

would it tend to develope the highest standard of attainment rather than the lowest, as is done by the present system, so distinctly therefore would it tend to that very limitation of competition which the profession seeks, and of which, when attained, members of the College Corporations will enjoy the benefits as well as the humblest members of the profession, that, we conceive, the elected representatives of the profession would be no less anxious to propose this scheme at the General Council Board than the representatives of the Colleges would be, we presume, to accept the proposal. We cannot, therefore, imagine that the representation of the registered practitioner on the Medical Council would, or could, prove injurious to the interests of the Corporations, rather we should suppose that it would thus be likely to confer a permanent benefit upon them; and, certainly, if we are correctly informed, some even of the representatives of the Corporations have avowed their sympathy with the movement in this direction, and their intention of supporting it with their advocacy before the General Council itself. We can do no more than mention the usual arguments in its favour; viz. that representation ought invariably to accompany taxation; and, that the profession would have greater confidence in the legislation of the Council when its own representatives should have share in the deliberations and decisions of that body. To these we may add that the right of self-government belongs to all associated communities of men as the necessary corollary of individual liberty and personal freedom. These arguments will carry adifferent amount of weight with different minds; we shall neither attempt to enforce nor to invalidate them; we have only considered it to be our duty to attempt to investigate the results which the movement, if successful, will be likely to have on those bodies whose interests we are here endeavouring to consider, namely, the Licensing Corporations, the profession at large, and the public.

We have yet to consider one or two matters connected with the practice of our profession; and first we must speak of the relation of the practice of Pharmacy to the practice of Medicine, both as it is found in Ireland and in England.

Whatever may be the history, first of the connexion, and afterwards of the partial separation between these two, Pharmacy, and the Practice of Medicine, it is scarcely to be doubted that, in this present nineteenth century, circumstances require a revision of their relations and their re-establishment upon a new basis. The time was when all science might fairly be considered within the grasp of one mind of ordinary ability and intellectual activity; the time was when the Practice of Medicine was considered an integral portion of the profession of Divinity, and the Practice of Surgery was deemed fairly within the skill of an ordinary barber. Those times are past; the sciences have become broader, more profound, more extensive, more numerous; the arts, that is to say the practical application of the sciences, have become developed in intricacy, in delicacy, in the manipulative skill required by those who undertake to pursue them, and pari passu with these changes society has recognised the fact that by a division of labour, which has now become almost unlimited, it receives not only the best but also the cheapest service. It is further an undoubted fact that, if you have anywhere skill, intellect, or knowledge which is fit for higher work, you waste valuable power in putting it to discharge lower. If the mechanical force of coal can be employed to pump water from a mine it would be extravagance to use the mechanical force of the horse for that purpose; if the intelligence of the horse qualifies him to draw the plough we should not think of employing manual labour to effect the same object; the work can be done more cheaply, and quite as well, by employing the humbler agent. On the other hand it is clear that, if you set

the skill or intelligence which is only fit for one class of work, to discharge a function very much higher, the loss is still more serious, for the work itself must of necessity be spoiled. That the compounding of medicines, then, does not require that amount of training, knowledge, skill, or intellectual capacity which the Practice of Medicine requires is surely a self-evident fact; hence it follows that if society employs in the compounding of drugs the skill, knowledge, and intellectual ability which is competent to practice, it is wasting power, and paying more highly than it need for the discharge of the humbler function. A skilled artisan may have no very great objection to being taken away from his proper occupation and employed to dig the ground, but he will assuredly charge as much for his labour no matter which work he is employed at, and rightly so, for the value of his labour is fixed by other considerations altogether, viz., by the market demand for, and supply of, his particular skill and ability; if you wish, therefore, to employ him with the greatest profit to yourself you must put him to the highest work he is capable of discharging. It is clear, therefore, that to employ the skilled practitioner to do the work of a compounder is a highly extravagant and costly proceeding on the part of society. On the other hand, if a man is fit only for the work of a compounder, it is madness to call upon him to discharge the duties of a practitioner.

But there is also this consideration to be borne in mind, that, of all the sciences and arts which have received new and extraordinarily extensive developement since the present century commenced, none has received so great an impetus and developement as that of medicine, as might indeed be inferred a priori from a consideration of the number of the sciences which it comprises and includes, if not as actual portions of itself, at least in the list of its allies and handmaids. And even within the range of practice properly so called how many

new instruments of research and diagnosis do we now possess which were unknown say 50 years ago, with each one of which it is highly desirable, and with some quite essential that every practitioner should be scientifically acquainted and practically familiar; we may name the stethoscope, laryngoscope, ophthalmoscope, endoscope, speculum, thermometer and microscope, unknown at least as instruments of medical research, the sphygmograph, chemical tests and testing apparatus, with others which will suggest themselves. On the other hand we have a vast developement of scientific pharmacy; we have in this department, as necessary subjects of study and practical familiarity, which yet were unnecessary, even unknown in their present acceptation at the commencement of this century, Chemistry, inorganic and organic, analytical and synthetical, Botany, Mineralogy, and the study of the Imponderables; and in the art of Pharmacy there is a constant laborious manipulation to be practised, most various in nature and character, and requiring a very considerable amount of habitual practice and skill; so that in short we arrive at this result, that, with the present vast developement of both medicine and pharmacy, either alone is quite sufficient to occupy all the time and attention, all the study and skill, of one individual. It cannot be expected on the one hand that the man who is really engaged with disease can have time, or even the requisite practice in the art, to be able to discharge the duties required in the practice of pharmacy; and on the other hand it is simply absurd to suppose that a man engaged from morning till night at pharmacy can have any real knowledge of disease, any practical familiarity with it, any scientific skill in the modes and methods of its diagnosis, any instinctive or skilled appreciation of the phenomena, phases or changes it manifests. Certainly we should say the time is now come when, in the interests both of the public and the profession, a complete divorce ought

to take place between the practice of medicine and the practice of pharmacy. We have urged this upon economic grounds and upon scientific grounds as regards both the public and the profession; as regards the latter only we have also to urge it upon the ground of the social status which it is desirable that our profession should occupy. The question is, are we a profession or a trade, are we gentlemen or not, are we physicians or pharmaceutists? It is of no avail to say that if a man is within the ranks of the profession he thereby becomes a gentleman; for the question evidently is not in what light do we look upon ourselves or upon each other, but, in what light are we looked upon by the external world. It is admittedly desirable that medical practitioners, the members of a learned and liberal profession, should be gentlemen, that is to say, that they should be held as the equals of gentlemen in education and position, as the equals of the members of the other learned professions. Of education, and what is required by our profession in that direction, we have spoken above; as regards position we may remark that the gentry look upon the clergy as their social equals, that they look upon the members of the bar as their social equals, nay more that they regard a certain portion of our profession in the same light. Which portion then? and why not all of our members? That portion, we reply, which regards our profession as a profession strictly, and not as a compound of a profession and a trade; and those of our body are excluded from such a status who accept the compromise, and add the business of a trade, the sale of medicines, to the practice of their profession. For this is a point of which society is very tenacious; a gentleman must not engage in retail trade; we put it in this light that there may be less possibility of any question being raised on the point. He may sell, no doubt, the produce of his land, or of his mines, or the skill of which he is possessed; but he may not buy in

order to sell again; and could we look deep down into the feeling regarding, and instinctive appreciation of matters sometimes rather hard to define, which lie at the bottom of most of the apparently arbitrary rules of society, we should no doubt see that society has good reason for its extreme tenacity on this point; as regards our profession, however, there is very little difficulty in appreciating the strict applicability of this rule; for whatever delicacy of discriminative appreciation may be necessary to recognise the fact that there is a discrepancy between the keen sense of commercial profit and advantage, with the habits and tone of thought necessarily resulting from constant attention to this point, and the tone of mind and manners which are essential to the cultivation, refinement, and polish of a gentleman, there can be no doubt whatever that the commercial spirit, with its peculiar attendant style and turn of mind, is wholly foreign to, and at variance with, the reflective calm, the concentrated thought, the forgetfulness of self and its concerns, which are the habitual frame of mind of the philosopher and man of science, and which are essentially necessary to the due discharge of the medical practitioner's duties towards the public.

We cannot, therefore, but deeply regret that an old trade monopoly should not only appertain to, but be actively maintained by, one of the corporations belonging to the medical profession, and whose licences are now accepted by the Army, Navy, and Poor Law Boards, as constituting a sufficient title to practise medicine. There has been a struggle regarding the admission of the corporation referred to into the practising ranks of the profession; that struggle is now past, and we have therefore nothing to say as to the arguments urged on one side or the other. The corporation is recognised by the Legislature and the Governmental departments as belonging to professional bodies, and our business clearly is to consider matters as we find them. Unquestionably,

then, belonging to professional corporations, we cannot but consider it highly derogatory to the dignity of her sisters that this particular corporation should retain a trade monopoly, granted in the days when she undoubtedly claimed no higher rank than that of a trading company; nay more, we cannot but assert that the maintenance of such a monopoly is not only derogatory to her sister corporations, but places herself upon a vastly lower level than that occupied by a similar corporation with a corresponding title, and, except in this particular, an analogous position, in the sister kingdom. No doubt it is necessary that compounding should be performed by persons possessing the requisite skill and knowledge; but the question at once arises, What is the nature of the skill and knowledge requisite for this work? Is a knowledge of Anatomy necessary? We think not; we do not see that it adds in the slightest degree to the skill of the compounder; nor do we see that this end is gained by a knowledge of Medicine, Surgery, or Midwifery, or by hospital attendance in these subjects, or lectures clinical or theoretical thereon; so far from that, if a man has studied somewhat of these subjects, he will undoubtedly be led away from his business as a compounder into the field of practice, and, as we have said, not only is one of these two subjects enough for one individual, but also, if a study of medicine proper has made his time and skill more valuable than that of the mere compounder, he will as a necessary consequence charge the public more for his mere compounding work than what would be sufficient to recompense an equal amount of knowledge and skill in compounding in one whose studies reached no farther than Pharmacy proper, with the sciences which are really necessary for that work, such as Chemistry and Botany, sciences which the practitioner-compounder of the present day has rarely studied to the extent which the compounder ought to do, and the compounder pure would do under a system which,

like that of the Pharmaceutical Society in England, should provide a laboratory with regular Pharmaceutical professors in the different branches, whose examinations should be of the style, and carry the prestige, which the examinations of men who are public teachers of their respective subjects always do carry, and which none other can.

But it will no doubt be said that the practitioner-compounder whom we have described, and who, be it recollected, is a very different personage from the well-known general practitioner, this person, it will be said, is a fully qualified practitioner, and has a right to practise as such; to this we do not offer any objection; we only say, if so, as a practitioner he ought to surrender compounding to the proper person, the compounder pure, the Pharmaceutical Chemist; and, as a professional man, he ought to give up trade, he ought not to derogate from the dignity of the professional character by keeping open shop, and so lower himself to a rank beneath that which, as a professional man, he is entitled to occupy. In addition to this, if he is a practitioner he is bound, as a mere matter of courtesy, deference, and professional etiquette towards his brother practitioners, not to demand that he shall be engaged in any degree in the treatment of their patients; he is bound to give up all claim that their prescriptions, when they do not happen to be general practitioners, shall come to his shop and pass through his hands; to maintain such a claim would be to demand the right of comment, criticism, and no doubt in many cases even censure on the treatment of men his superiors in the profession, to a degree that could not for a moment be tolerated. We do not speak of those, no doubt exceptional, cases in which no good feeling might exist between the rival practitioners, and in which the apothecary might take advantage of the position he would thus hold to run down his neighbour's credit and injure his

practice, either directly by his words and looks, or indirectly by his excessive charges for compounding. The days of monopolies are over; they are not in the spirit, nor in accordance with the tone and the economic enlightenment of this present nineteenth century; they are universally recognised as being injurious to the public, and they ought no longer to be found among those whose boast it is that they are members of one of the liberal and learned professions.

We have yet some remarks to make on general practice, as it is known alike in England and in Ireland. Now we would by no means be understood as intending to object to what is known as general practice, that is to a medical man supplying medicines to his patients for the sake of their convenience, and, as a consequence of that convenience, for the sake of obtaining, it may be, a larger practice for himself. Neither can we express much objection to his receiving such payment for his medicines, so supplied, as shall reimburse him for their cost, and for the time and labour of a skilled pharmaceutist in making them up; the general practitioner is unquestionably a most valuable member of society, and to dispense medicines to his own patients is his distinctive characteristic. But we must and do object most seriously to the practice so common, both in England and Ireland, of the general practitioner making his income principally under the name of charges for medicines supplied, we might say his surgery consultation income altogether, meaning thereby to exclude reference to his visits, but to include in our remarks mention of the medicines supplied to visited patients. We cannot but regard this practice as a cropping out again of that commercial spirit which we have already spoken of as being so derogatory to the dignity of a profession, and so lowering to the social status both of the individuals who adopt it, and, through the numbers of their class, to the whole profession. The

extent to which this practice is carried, particularly in England, is absolutely startling and shocking to those who have been accustomed to regard their professional skill, judgment, and advice as being of bonâ fide value to the public. Not only is it the custom to charge *for* the medicine, but so completely is the charge made *through* the medicine, that from three to four shillings will be demanded for an 8oz. or 10oz. mixture, while a shilling or eighteenpence will be thought enough for a 2oz mixture, the value of the skill, judgment, and professional advice, and, we may add, of the practitioner's time, being nevertheless the same in both cases. Nor is this sufficient; but where the patient is a person of better means, and hence, as usual, is expected to pay on a more liberal scale, this is not asked for in the shape of consultation fees, but the medicine to be taken is made up, not in a mixture of 8oz. or 10oz., but in draughts, each draught being separately charged at a shilling or so, and the medical man estimates the class of his practice according to the number of "draught patients" he has on his books. We can scarcely find language strong enough to express our reprehension of this mode of practice; nor would it be easy to point out all the serious economic mistakes involved in it. In the first place it presents the strongest possible temptation to the practitioner to over-dose and drug his patient, thereby calling down upon himself the satire of globulists and water-doctors, the censure of men of sense, the ire of the public, and, we fear we might add, the condemnation, very often, of his own conscience, for, certainly, so many patients have been prematurely hastened to their end by this system that Romeo's melancholy language when seeking his own destruction,

"I do remember an apothecary,"

might not inaptly be placed in their mouths and on their tombstones.

Secondly, it very much overcharges the public; and not only so but charges them by an unjust tariff and mode. A single mixture charged at four or five shillings may be regarded as only a fair mode of obtaining the practitioner's fee for his advice; but we much doubt if the same view could fairly be taken of a dozen or a score of the same mixtures supplied at the same price; certainly it would be much cheaper for the patient to give a physician a guinea for the prescription, and thus obtain what we may call the copyright of it; and this unfairness the public unquestionably feel, and hence arises the very distinct opinion in their minds that the doctor charges them for something else besides value received, which they do not feel that the grocer or the baker does, for the idea certainly never enters their minds that they are paying for anything besides the medicine, nor indeed that there is anything else to pay for, and hence it naturally follows by way of reprisals that the public take every opportunity of cheating the doctor, and appear to consider it perfectly fair to do so; not only so, but we cannot help attributing to this feeling, that is to say, to the mode of practice which we have pointed out as the cause of this feeling, a certain sentiment of contempt which we cannot but be aware often exists in the minds of a certain class of persons towards medical men in general, and which is quite distinct from any estimate of their social status; a sentiment, we may remark, much less to be found in Ireland than in England, if indeed at all in Ireland; and should we be asked why this should be so, we could hardly reply otherwise than that we believe it to be mainly due to the greater frequency of a higher style of practice in this country. The public, we say, are very well aware that not more than one-fortieth or one-fiftieth or perhaps one-hundreth part of the mixture for which they pay three or four shillings consists of the medicine for which they are supposed to pay; they know very

well that the value of this portion is perhaps a penny on an average, and that all the remainder is added water, for which they must pay at the rate of about sixpence an ounce; and if, as often happens, they find that they are deriving no benefit from all this physic, no wonder they should feel very little scruple about their omission to pay the doctor's bill; no wonder that a reaction should set in against the medical men in the direction of the Club-system, which certainly bears with at least as much unfairness against them as the system of charging for medicine does against the public.

Thirdly, we think it is past all doubt that this system, originally devised for the purpose of extracting more money out of the public, and certainly succeeding admirably in that respect, nevertheless fails ultimately to put more money into the pocket of the individual practitioner; and that for this very obvious reason, that the better receipts undoubtedly for a time obtained by means of it form the very motive which induces a still larger and larger number of young men to select this particular profession as their walk in life, by reason of which the average receipts of the individual are again reduced at least as low as they would have been had the more reasonable system of charging for advice only been invariably adopted.

It will probably be said that if prescriptions were written by the general practitioner the same amount would still have to be paid for medicines at the druggist's shop, and that this money may as well come into the pockets of the profession as go into those of the druggist; but in the first place we reply that money is not everything, and that social status, individual position and professional dignity are surely, or at least ought to be, of some value as against mere gain; secondly, that trade competition would very soon reduce the druggist's terms for compounding to the lowest tariff at which a person of a pharmaceutist's rank and education

could properly support himself, in other words to the lowest amount possible on account of the value of the medicine, and the compounder's time and skill, the sixpence per ounce for water added being necessarily very soon given up ; thus the public would be at once more cheaply, and as we believe better served, the practitioner confining himself to practice, and the compounder to compounding, the latter having no monopoly, as in Ireland, to aid him in keeping up his prices to an artificial standard, and the former maintaining his professional dignity ; while the feeling of the public would unquestionably be that a definite value attached to the practitioner's time and skill, for which they should be fairly entitled to pay ; there would then be a corresponding increase in their sentiments of respect for the individual practitioner and his class, and an increased confidence in his treatment, with an assurance that he would order no more medicine than should be really to the patient's advantage ; while the practitioner's income would certainly ere long be found to have undergone no real diminution, perhaps rather the reverse, since he would probably be consulted about more trifling ailments when the consequent expenses should be known to be so much less burthensome than formerly. We believe that it will yet be found in this matter, as an enlightened economy and enlarged view show it to be in every other, that that service which is most advantageous to the public is after all the most advantageous for those also who yield such service, whether they be regarded as individuals or as classes.

In answer to all this we think we hear it said that the system of general practitioners charging for advice instead of for medicines supplied would not in practice be found to answer ; that the public would not be satisfied, and that the profession would suffer. We reply, that we suggest no new untried system, but one which for several years has been tried in the large and important

town of Liverpool, where it has been practically found to answer both for the public and for the general practitioner; for the latter indeed so well that it is difficult to say who is a physician and who is a general practitioner except by reference to the Directory, so much has the status of the latter been improved by his ceasing to sell or supply medicines. Nor does this imply any alteration in the scale of fees usually charged by the general practitioner, for we know as a matter of fact that the charge made in Liverpool is about 3s. 6d. for a surgery consultation, and 5s. for a visit as elsewhere.

We could not perhaps ask that general practitioners should, as a rule, refuse to supply medicine to their patients, but we would earnestly press the view that they ought no longer to sell it, but to charge their patients for their time and skill only, and supply medicine to them gratis; we say, gratis, but it would not really be so, for a slight rise in the rate of charging for advice and visits could, and inevitably would, be made to cover the additional expense the practitioner would be at in the supply of medicines.

We have now but one subject more on which we should wish to make a few remarks; and this is, the question of a physician's fees. And by this term we would not be understood to mean the fees paid to the metropolitan physician in good practice, nor to the consulting physician, nor to the man who, whether it be in the country or in the town, is in attendance on the respectable classes; we recognise the customary guinea fee as that which is at once proper to be given by the patient, and rightly to be expected by the physician, if medical men are to be supported by the public for their times of need. Of course when we speak of the physician we shall be understood as including in the term the high-class surgeon also, in fact as using the term not in contradistinction to the surgeon, but to the general practitioner. And the question we wish to dis-

cuss regarding this, the highest class of practitioner both as regards professional qualifications and social standing, is, whether the custom or etiquette which fixes a guinea as his fee for attendance on the better classes forbids, or rightly forbids, his giving the benefit of his skill and advice to the poorer classes for smaller sums varying according to their ability to pay.

In this question we certainly do not wish to be understood as referring to the man who may have his hands full though his fee be the usual one of a guinea, neither when we say "full" do we mean that he is engaged from morning till night, for we believe that time for study and time for recreation is of such importance to the medical man that he can hardly adequately discharge his duty to society without it; if therefore a man finds that he is making a comfortable livelihood, on reasonable work, at the guinea fee, we certainly would not urge him to overwhelm himself with work by lowering his fee even for those of humble means; the fact that a neighbourhood affords such a livelihood for one man implies that it will afford a comfortable livelihood for another practitioner, say a man of equal talent and as good qualifications, but junior, and of less experience, if he only makes it his business to accommodate the recompense for his services to the means of the public, that is to say of the humbler class who cannot afford the customary guinea fee. No doubt this latter practitioner will have somewhat harder work to go through in order to obtain the same income as his senior, but, "It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth;" it is of such a practitioner as this latter that we would wish to speak; of one who, let us suppose, has the highest qualifications; F.R.C.S.; M.R.C.P. or L.K.Q.C.P.I. &c., but yet who, owing to circumstances, say his youth, say the want of a good neighbourhood, the pre-occupation of a neighbourhood, or any other cause, would unquestionably not have his hands full, not have sufficient employment, nor where-

withal to live on if he were to insist on the customary guinea fee, even supposing that he should give three or four visits for it; we speak of a man to whom five-shilling fees would be of real value, unfortunately there are too many such in our profession, who has time on his hands, who could have a fair amount of work if he should consent to ask five shillings only for a visit to, or from, a patient in humble circumstances, receiving of course a guinea, as usual, from the better classes, and who feels that nothing but etiquette and professional custom prevents him from accommodating himself to the wants of his neighbourhood, serving the public better, and as an unquestionable result obtaining a better income for himself. We would ask is this etiquette reasonable, is it even right, whether as regards the public or the practitioner? As regards the public the state of the case is this; a man of small means, yet such as may suffice to maintain in his mind a sense of self-respect, wishes to consult a medical man, say, to illustrate the case, for a single occasion; he can by no means afford the customary fee of a guinea; will it be said that in that case he must be referred to the practitioner of humble talents and inferior education and qualifications, and in whose skill and judgment he well knows he can place no confidence, while yet there is a man at hand of sufficient talent, high education, good qualifications, reliable judgment, who has time to spare, and to whom every crown-piece is of value as a matter of income? And shall the latter be debarred from aiding his neighbour, and serving himself, on the mere ground of his holding a licence as a physician? Shall the patient be told that one of three courses is before him, to pay a guinea to the detriment of his purse, to consult an inferior practitioner to the detriment of his health, or to go to the dispensary to the detriment of his self-respect and position, and all for a matter of professional etiquette? Such was formerly the rule

can we wonder that society has risen up and avenged itself on the higher ranks of the profession? Can we wonder that the demand for medical advice at a moderate tariff, for an occasional necessity, has produced a supply, and that better incomes are earned by the men who thus consult the interest of the public as regards their purses, obtaining a compensation for themselves in the larger number of their patients, their more frequent consultation, and the fuller employment of their time, while the man of higher education, qualifications and status, the man whose services are of more value to the public, and even, on account of the sale of physic system, much the cheaper also for a prolonged attendance, finds himself beaten by an antagonist who has no recommendation to compare with his, save and except this one that he accommodates his fees to the wants of the humbler but more numerous classes of the health-seeking public? As regards the physician himself, is it reasonable that he should be debarred the wider practice and more extended experience to be derived from this more numerous class of patients, and compelled to vegetate on an occasional guinea, losing his knowledge from mere want of exercise, instead of consolidating it by practical application for the benefit of others? Is it reasonable that the young man who, however high his qualifications, has yet only just passed, should be excluded from practice by a rule which sets forth to the public that his services are as valuable as those of a man of years and experience? for to say that the public must pay the same fee for his services is in effect proclaiming them to be as valuable. This is undoubtedly the light in which the public look upon the matter; be the fee in our eyes a gratuity, or whatever else we may choose to call it, in their eyes it is an equivalent for services received; and, knowing as they do that the services of the junior and inexperienced man are not, cæteris paribus, which is always assumed to be the case

in their view, of the same value as those of the senior of experience, they will never employ the junior when, being able to afford a guinea, they can obtain the advice of the senior; on the other hand those who cannot afford the larger fee would much prefer the services of the well-qualified young physician to those of men of inferior qualifications, education, talents or even manners, if they could only obtain the former for a reasonable fee, a fee proportioned on their side to their means, on his, to his years and experience; unquestionably a great many men of genuine talent, men whose education and manners would reflect credit on the profession, are deterred from entering it by the consideration that they must wait for years before they can obtain such weight and experience as shall bring them in a livelihood at the guinea fee.

Of course it will be said that to accept a lower fee than a guinea is derogatory to the profession. But if we were to ask "Why?" we confess we do not know what answer would be made; the slur upon the profession implied in one of its members receiving half a sovereign as a fee from a person in humble life seems to be one of those things which must be appreciated by instinct, and not submitted to the coarse process of reasoning; it is so as a matter of fact we suppose, and in the nature of things, and all the reasoning in the world cannot alter a fact, therefore why reason about it? But to us it seems, as a matter of instinct let us say, that there is nothing derogatory to any man, or a member of any profession, in setting his knowledge, judgment and skill at any price whatsoever; he does not thereby engage in trade, he does not buy that he may sell again, he does not even sell goods though unbought; and yet a gentleman is allowed to do this, or to sell goods formerly bought provided they were not bought for the purpose of selling them again; and his produced goods he may sell in any quantity and for any sum; he is not

therefore considered to be engaged in trade; and yet, undoubtedly, to sell, if we may so call it, the produce of your brains, your skill, judgment, and advice, is less of a commercial transaction than the other. The one thing that does seem to us derogatory to the dignity of our profession is the sale of medicine; there the true commercial element comes in; there we lower ourselves to the trade level; not in giving our advice to the classes of smaller means at such fees as they may be able to afford. And the price of medicines ought also to be in proportion, and, if monopoly were abolished, would ere long be so, for, as we have already said, pharmaceutists, if allowed to take upon themselves the whole business of compounding, would soon be compelled by the current of public custom to charge for their medicines as the grocer does for the articles he provides for sale, that is to say, at a reasonable tariff of profit on outlay, labour and skill, without adding anything for simple water for dilution.

No doubt an outcry would be made by apothecary practitioners that young physicians, in accepting smaller fees than the guinea, were taking practice out of their hands; but we reply that if this is for the good of the public so it must be. The apothecaries have obtained a legislative and governmental recognition of their status as practitioners of medicine, and thus have entered themselves as the avowed rivals of physicians; surely they have then no right to demand that the latter should be ·ighted in the race for practice; let them make their ·ices of more value to the public than those of phy- ıns and no doubt they will be the parties employed, le the others will be thrown overboard; or rather there no longer be rivalry between the different ɜses of the profession as classes; but let each indivi- ·ndeavour to make his services as a practitioner of value as possible to the public, who will un- y derive benefit from a generous emulation, and

let such practitioner adopt such a scale of charges or fees as may suit his individual circumstances best. The perfect freedom and equality of all practitioners as regards the right to practise has now been obtained and legally recognised; we cannot but regard this as a great step gained; free and unrestricted competition among those in the actual practice of the profession is now a necessity; by no other means can a feeling of unity in the profession be created; by no other means can such an impetus be given to the endeavours of each member thereof after excellence as by the knowledge that no monopoly can be held by him, no restriction placed upon the practice of his neighbour; by no other means, we conceive, can an equal advantage be gained for the public, whose benefit is the highest and noblest aim of our profession. The distinction between unrestricted competition in the mode of practice, and unlimited competition as regards the number of practitioners is so obvious that we need do no more than call attention to it.

We foresee one more objection to the suggestion we have made regarding the reduction of the fee for the highest professional advice in proportion to the means of the applicant; it is this; that in the sister profession of the bar no such reduction would be tolerated. To this we have only to reply that the relation of the public to these two professions is wholly different; to go to law is a luxury; to have to seek medical advice is, unhappily for mankind, too often a dire necessity. That a barrister should refuse his services to a client who could not pay the customary fee would evidently be an important and valuable barrier to prevent, very often, the unfortunate man's ruin; to refuse medical advice such as one can give, under similar circumstances, and merely on account of a professional etiquette, seems to us a derogation from the nobility of a profession, the courtesy of a gentleman, the kindness of a Christ

It will be asked, Where then is the line to be drawn as regards the fee for which a physician will give his advice to a poor man? We reply that the same rule must obtain here which is found to work best on the whole for the advantage of the public in all other transactions involving service to the public, namely, that each man should fix his own standard precisely at that level which he may find of most advantage to himself; this is the only sound rule for guidance, as it is also the only rule of universal application. A man's income earned is the exact measure of the value attached by the public to the services he has rendered them; he who has earned most, provided it be earned honestly, we put in this limitation for the purpose of making the remark generally applicable to all occupations whatsoever, he who has earned most has therein merely obtained an acknowledgment from the public that they have regarded his services as being of the most value to them; their estimate may not of course be quite correct; it may, indeed, be much too high or too low, but being their own estimate it is the only true guide as to the mode of rendering them what shall be, in their practically expressed opinion, the highest amount of service. This observation of course has no reference to charitable or unpaid service of any kind, but only to remunerated service. In seeking therefore the highest income for himself every man is following a clue, it may be blindly, it may be selfishly, we speak not of motives, but of results, he is following a clue which will, as an average result, infallibly lead to the highest good attainable for the benefit of the public. The action of this great economic law seems to us one of the most striking instances of the plan which we so often see adopted by Providence in his government of the world, namely the attainment of the highest and most important ends through the operation of secondary, indirectly acting, and altogether inferior motives.

Our task is now concluded; we cannot hope, we have nowhere during its progress indulged in the anticipation, that the views we have propounded shall meet with universal approbation or assent.

We cannot but be aware that we have frequently touched the interests of certain sections or members of our common body. We hope we have always touched those places which we may have considered to need our probe as gently as might be consistent with the benefit and improvement in health of the whole body, but we cannot hope that our probing and handling shall not have sometimes proved painful. Yet if there is disease in a body, and the proposal of the present competition implies that something is wrong somewhere, since improvement is what is sought after, we cannot always avoid giving pain to individual members if we seek to benefit the whole body; and this is what we have desired to seek, and hence we have not been able to propose to ourselves that we should always avoid touching, perhaps even touching sorely, on individual members and particular interests. We have sought to regard our profession as one; we have endeavoured to suggest such measures and modifications of our present systems as shall, we believe, make it for the future perfect and complete in itself,

"In seipso totus, teres atque rotundus."

We have considered that a common benefit ought in all cases to outweigh, and would in most cases more than compensate for, individual loss; we have proposed that each, if need be, should forego some little private advantage for the common good, in accordance with the injunction "Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth." But we believe that such need will very seldom arise, and that, if a general result should be taken, it would be found that the instance would be indeed rare in which a more than compensating advantage should not be found in some other direction for

each individual in return for anything surrendered by him for the sake of his brethren at large.

Finally, we have endeavoured to consider not our profession only, but also the general good of the public whose servants we are, and whose benefit not only ought to be the highest aim of our profession, but we believe actually is so to an extent unrivalled in any other. This we have endeavoured to set before ourselves as our leading star wherever any question has seemed to arise as to the true course to be followed regarding any collision apparently existing, or any compromise to be proposed, between diverse professional interests. We have maintained that in best serving the public we shall best serve ourselves; we have only to add, that even were this not the case, yet should we thus best follow the example of our Divine Master, the great Physician, who went about doing good, and healing all manner of disease.

As our professional body, then, seeks and finds in the following of this great exemplar the noblest exercise of its talents and skill, we also have endeavoured in the present Essay to consider the public good as our supreme object, and, remembering the words of the same Divine Teacher that "It is more blessed to give than to receive" we have endeavoured so to frame our proposals and suggestions for the benefit and improvement of our profession as that society at large shall receive benefits more than equivalent to what we seek for ourselves; we have endeavoured to write, according to the motto we have assumed,

Non nobis sed omnibus.

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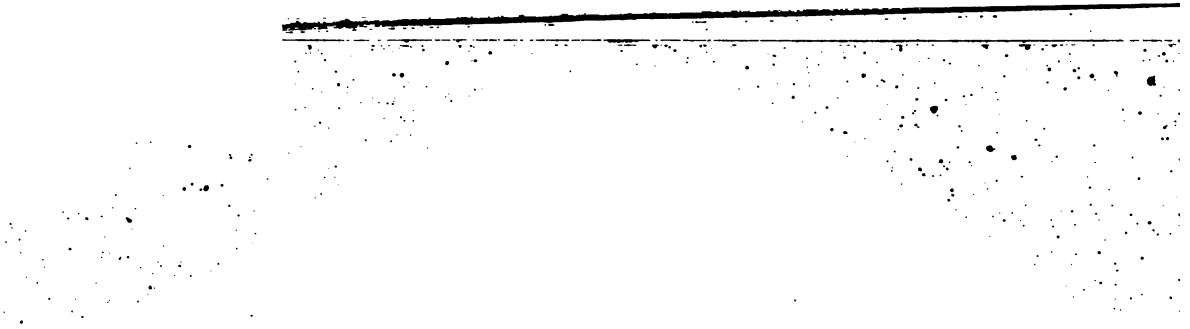

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